

Nuclear fears over Soviet republics

Anxious Nato embraces the eastern bloc

From MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN ROME

NATO leaders yesterday approved a strategy for a future embracing the Soviet Union and east European countries as partners. But even as they signed up to the new concept at their Rome summit, the leaders expressed alarm over the collapse of the Soviet economy and fears about nuclear proliferation among the republics.

Their concern was highlighted in a special declaration to be issued today which urges the republics to respect nuclear treaties signed by the Soviet Union. John Major suggested that aid should be linked to arms control.

Nato's new military strategy acknowledges the changing requirements in the post cold war era and calls for fewer soldiers, more mobile units and less reliance on nuclear weapons. "The monolithic, massive and potentially immediate threat which was the

principal concern of the alliance in its first 40 years has disappeared," the document said, but "a great deal of uncertainty about the future and risks to the security of the alliance remain".

The document drops all reference to the Soviet Union as the main threat to the alliance. The breakdown of its central authority and instability throughout eastern Europe are seen as the new enemies and the leaders yesterday emphasised the need for closer links with the democracies emerging in the former communist bloc. Foreign ministers from Nato, the Soviet Union, east European countries and the three newly-independent Baltic states are to meet in Brussels on December 20 to launch a new "era of partnership".

Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary have all expressed interest in joining Nato, and officials yesterday accepted that membership might eventually be granted to former Warsaw Pact coun-

tries, "but not now". Nevertheless, Mr Bush said Nato could not turn a deaf ear to those seeking links with the alliance. "We cannot welcome these nations to our world of values and yet hold them at arm's length from our affairs."

While stretching out a hand to the east, the Nato leaders emphasised their concerns about the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and Mr Bush and Mr Major spent much of their working breakfast discussing their fears. The latest assessments of the economic collapse from a G7 meeting in Paris and doubts about Moscow's ability to meet the foreign debt repayment due next month only fueled the alarm.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, told fellow leaders that the Soviet Union needed financial and humanitarian aid "now, not later", apparently clashing with Mr Major's call for a link between financial aid and arms cuts.

The separate declaration on developments in the Soviet Union said: "In a period of dramatic political change, it is important that leaders of the Soviet Union and the republics implement policies that contribute to international peace and security."

Nato appealed to all authorities in the Soviet Union to refrain from any steps that could lead to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It was "critical" that the Soviet Union and the republics respect, ratify and implement the strategic arms treaty and the conventional forces in Europe treaty.

The Nato leaders also warned against any build-up of conventional military forces in the republics which "by their size and character" could exacerbate political tension.

In reviewing Nato's role in the future, America suggested that individual allies should be able to use Nato supplies to support fighting outside the alliance's territory - if the operation were sanctioned by the United Nations. Britain made a similar suggestion, proposing that Nato forces could be involved in activities sanctioned by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. But France opposed Nato becoming the "world's policeman".

President Mitterrand joined the other leaders in endorsing the new military strategy, but made clear that French forces would remain outside the alliance's command structure.

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Pressure on Serbia, page 11

Family acts to move body before sunset

Maxwell ready for final journey

From LIN JENKINS
IN LAS PALMAS

THE body of Robert Maxwell was last night due to leave the Canary Islands for its final resting place in Jerusalem. In spite of setbacks the family were determined to move the body before sunset on Friday, the start of the Jewish sabbath. He will be buried on Sunday.

Spanish authorities on the island where the publisher's body has been flown after being hauled from the sea on Tuesday speeded up the bureaucratic process to allow the body to leave. Repatriation of Britons who die in the islands normally takes a week to 10 days.

Shortly after noon the family had the necessary paperwork for the body to leave including a death certificate which gave the cause of death as "parado cardio-respiratoria [cardio-respiratory arrest]". Keith Hazell, British consul in Tenerife, who spent the morning with the family, said Mr Maxwell had been receiving treatment for acute pulmonary oedema, a condition in which the lungs fill with fluid as a result of progressive failure of the heart.

He had been under the care of his nephew in Paris and had died as a result of "cardiac insufficiency". He added that the family still did not know whether he died before or after hitting the water, though there was little water in the lungs, proving that he did not drown.

He added that Mr Maxwell's daughter Ghislaine had been on the boat with her mother and had been tearful. "She was very close to her father. All the family were, but perhaps she was the closest."

Speaking on the vessel her father named after her, Miss Maxwell said she thanked everyone who had supported her family. "I want to take this opportunity to thank all the many hundreds of people who have sent messages of support to us at this very sad time. I want also to thank the press for their courtesy and consideration



Tearful: Ghislaine Maxwell yesterday on board the yacht named after her

to my mother and to us ... which we appreciate very much."

On the London stock exchange the value of Robert Maxwell's master company, Maxwell Communication Corporation, was slashed by more than £300 million yesterday when share dealings resumed. MCC's market capitalisation plummeted

from £789 million to £484 million as shares dropped from 121p, where trading was suspended on Tuesday, to 74p at the close of trade yesterday.

Shares of Mirror Group, owner of the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *Sunday Mail*, *Daily Record* and *The Sporting Life*, climbed to a high of 118p before settling

back to close at 106p from Tuesday's 77p, boosting the company's worth from £311 million to £425 million.

Kevin Maxwell, the new chairman of MCC, issued a statement before dealings restarted, admitting the group

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Third EC draft treaty will not placate Britain

From GEORGE BROOK, EUROPEAN EDITOR, IN BRUSSELS

A NEW version of the European Community's political union treaty retains the controversial aim to work towards a "federal goal", an expression which British ministers have said is unacceptable. The text, which will be delivered to British ministers this weekend, also proposes wide extensions of EC powers, according to senior Dutch sources.

The draft, the third version of the treaty to be produced this year, indicates that the EC will be given new powers to set community policies and laws for education, health, culture, industry, tourism, consumer affairs, energy, the environment and social affairs. The community already acts in some of these areas, but the new treaty would extend its reach considerably.

On the fringes of the Nato summit meeting in Rome, John Major, appeared to Rudi Lubbers, his Dutch counterpart and the present EC president, not to "box him in" by drafting an EC political union treaty that would be unacceptable to Britain. The text of the draft, however, suggests many battles to come.

Mr Major outlined key points which he said should be excluded from the text if Britain was to sign the treaty at the Maastricht meeting next month. He wants no significant extension of legislative powers for the European parliament which would make it a rival to the House of Commons. He also told Mr Lubbers that he wanted no reference in the text to extending the powers of the European Commission to social and foreign policies.

With only a month to go before the pivotal summit meeting, the Dutch government is about to distribute a totally new text which will be debated by the community's foreign ministers for two days

next week. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said this week that the EC could not enlarge its membership to include East European states by "treading the federalist road". But the Dutch believe that on the most difficult issues Britain is isolated or in a small minority.

Dutch sources say that the text will keep a clause, Article X, opposed by Mr Hurd at a meeting here on Monday, which would create a common EC visa for short-term visitors to EC countries. Whitehall officials fear that this measure, however limited to short-term visas, would give the European Commission and court of justice effective power to shape national immigration policy. Apart from this exception, the treaty separates judicial and foreign policy into systems for co-operation between governments. The formulas on joint foreign policy and a future European army will be open-ended, but will fall well short of meeting British objections. Majority voting on foreign policy, totally opposed by Britain, will be retained in attenuated form.

Only minor changes will appear in another section of the treaty, also rejected by Mr Hurd this week, dealing with employment and welfare law. British ministers oppose any extension of EC powers in social matters and believe that the treaty is worded so vaguely that the powers of national governments would be eroded greatly. One clause gives the EC powers to set community-wide laws for "working con-

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Civil service to advertise for DPP in national press

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE post of Director of Public Prosecutions, vacant since the abrupt resignation on October 3 of Sir Allan Green, after long-running allegations, is to be advertised in the national press.

The post is one of the most senior government positions to be publicly advertised in this way, and the move is a clear sign that there is no obvious candidate for the job.

Privately, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-general, who would make the appointment after recommendations from a civil service commission board, has emphasised that it is an "open competition". A spokesman said yesterday: "The idea is to field as open and wide a field as possible."

There is a growing trend for civil service appointments to

be advertised. It has been done with those of Director of the Serious Fraud Office, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Statistical Officer.

The DPP post is the most senior legal office to be subject to such a system. In the past, holders have been approached privately and then an announcement has been made for the civil service grade one post, which carries a £77,000 salary. Now candidates will have to submit themselves to the civil service selection procedure of a board.

The advertisement, likely to appear next week, will increase pressure for other legal posts, such as those of senior judges, to be advertised.

A number of candidates are being tipped for what is considered a hot-seat job and one that will assume greater

prominence over the next 18 months during the deliberations of the royal commission on criminal justice. They include Barbara Mills, QC, director of the Serious Fraud Office (whose job is the only other senior legal post to have been advertised in the national press), and Michael Saunders, solicitor to Customs and Excise. Mr Saunders was, as legal secretary, the most senior official in the Attorney-general's department.

Other names include the Treasury counsel Graham Boal and John Nutting.

The choice has tended to come from the practising Bar or from Whitehall, but there is no reason why a solicitor or a judge should not be appointed. As head of the Crown Prosecution Service, the post demands managerial skill.

Donald, wear the troosers at your peril

By ALAN HAMILTON

NO self-respecting Englishman would wear brown brogues with evening dress, or a woolly cardigan over his mess kit. So why should a Scotsman get away with wearing tights or trousers under his kilt?

Gross sartorial solecisms being committed north of the Highland line have come to the notice of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association, which has taken such a dim view that it has amended its rule book. From the start of next year's caber-tossing season, knoes will be barred, and that is that.

The governing body of Scottish amateur sport has had complaints from its Highland games committee that too many competitors in the serious grunting events have taken to wearing track-suit bottoms, legwarmers, tights and other wimpish wear under the kilt while taking part in what are essentially manly

events. The association has taken the view that such coverings are an insult to traditional dress, and has toughened up rule 41(B). In the past, Highland games competitors were merely "discouraged" from wearing trousers under the kilt. Now the rule states that they "should not" do any such thing.

Gregor Nicholson, administrator of the association, said yesterday: "Whatever the wording of the new rule, you can take it that this is an effective ban on the trousers-kilt combination. They don't have to wear the kilt to take part, but if they do they must not spoil the effect with pink leggings or any other such wear. We will not have people making a monkey of tradition."

Next season's amateur Highland games calendar includes 23 gatherings, which traditionally feature the heavy-weight sports of caber-tossing, throwing

the hammer and putting the shot, all of which cause the kilt to swirl and lift.

Mr Nicholson is aware of the dangers. In his association's current newsletter, he points out that the underwear ban is not a total one, and that there will be no obligation on any competitor upholding the ultimate Scottish tradition. The feeling within the association appears to be that if a Scotsman has gone so soft that he can no longer bare his knees to the rigours of the northern climate, it is time he left for the Home Counties.

History is not on the side of the ruling. When King George IV in 1822 paid the first state visit to Scotland by a Hanoverian monarch since the English massacre of the Jacobites at Culloden in 1746, he appeared in the streets of Edinburgh wearing a kilt supplemented by pink silk tights. The rough citizenry laughed like drains.



Naked strength: the way traditionalists like it

Saturday Review

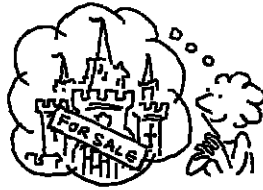
NOBBLED



The Duke of Roxburghe had a bit part in a *Tarzan* film but no part at all in the Jockey Club, from which he was blackballed. The *Saturday Review* investigates tomorrow

WEEKEND TIMES

DREAM HOUSES



The present property market gives buyers carte blanche to browse - but how to tell purchasers from nosy parkers? Weekend Times finds out

HE'S COMING



Ho, ho, ho, only 40 days to go (shopping days, that is). Steal some ideas from tomorrow's full-colour Christmas gift guide

TODAY

RISK KING



Without a desire to take risks, says Alan Ventob, there wouldn't be much point in the BBC, frankly. The Kate Muir interview Page 15

Pssst... Brother,



is that Bijan you're wearing?

Bijan
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for men

Inexorable advance of Brussels

Dropping of trade barriers will increase intervention

BRITAIN'S objections to the increasing tendency of European Commission officials to intervene in what Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, described as the "nooks and crannies" of everyday life are not without foundation. Westminster has already conceded sovereignty over a vast range of issues, from levels of agricultural subsidies to the new prefix for international telephone dialling codes.

The days when ministers and civil servants could contemplate legislative initiatives without reference to Brussels are a distant memory. There remain, however, many areas of activity in which the commission has no authority, and many more where the dividing line between community and national law is poorly defined.

However, the decision to abolish internal barriers to trade within the EC by the end of 1992 has an inexorable interventionist logic, effectively propelling the commission into areas of domestic life unforeseen when the single market programme was launched in 1985. Such interventionism has been exacerbated by the tendency of some commissioners to engage in empire building, which is deeply resented in Whitehall.

Indeed, the zeal with which

After a week in which road-building, maternity pay and fraud laws have all been subjects of dispute between London and Brussels, Michael Dynes looks at the limits of community power

Brussels has approached the task of demolishing internal barriers to trade has created a rich folklore, in which commission officials are depicted as unhelpful bureaucrats who will not rest until they have harmonised all aspects of life, including the attempt to force us to drive on the right, cut our lawns only between midday and 2pm on Sundays, and eat only EC-approved sausages and ice cream.

Ministers are presently engaged in a fundamental and often acrimonious debate with their European counterparts about the extent to which the competence of the community should be extended to new areas, including monetary and economic union, defence and foreign affairs. That debate has highlighted the degree to which sovereignty has been conceded, much of it willingly, forcing ministers into fighting a rear-guard action to defend those areas where they believe that the commission should not act.

Mr Hurd is determined to

see a clear and precise definition of community powers incorporated into the proposed political union treaty due to be signed at the EC summit meeting at Maastricht in December. Mr Hurd wants the treaty to enshrine the principle of subsidiarity — Euro-speak for devolving power to the lowest possible level — thereby establishing strict boundaries between community and national law.

Areas where the commission's role is most contentious include:

Social policy: few issues have generated as much controversy as the commission's attempt to extend its influence in an effort to give the single market a so-called social dimension. The proposed social charter, which covers everything from worker participation schemes to improved maternity benefits, is opposed by Britain on the grounds that it will increase business costs and reduce employment prospects.

The environment: the un-

precedented request by Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment commissioner, for a halt to work on multi-million pound road projects, including the proposed extension of the M3 through Twyford Down, Hampshire, provoked outrage from Conservative MPs. The incident prompted John Major to write to Jacques Delors, the commission president, complaining about commissioners exceeding their powers.

Signor Ripa di Meana had accused the government of failing to carry out a full environmental impact assessment on the projects, as required by EC law. The government insists that the projects were initiated before the EC legislation came into effect.

Ministers were well aware that Signor Ripa di Meana was preparing to initiate legal proceedings against Britain. It was, however, his personal request to stop work until the dispute had been settled, which he had no authority to make at this stage, that infuriated the government.

Immigration: Britain supports proposals to harmonise European Community visa, asylum and immigration procedures as part of the attempt to create the conditions under which there can be free movement of people around the EC from 1993.

However, the government is adamant that harmonisation of conditions of entry should remain the responsibility of national governments, working together through the Trevi Group of justice and interior ministers, rather than being transferred to Brussels. For example, it supports proposals for a common tourist visa for all 12 EC countries, but it insists that this must be by inter-governmental agreement, and not delegated to commission competence.

Regional development: there has long been a dispute between Britain and Brussels over the use of European regional development and social funds. The government has been accused of systematically abusing EC money by using it as a substitute for national spending rather than adding it to funds already earmarked for regional development or social schemes. The commission has withheld millions of pounds on the grounds that the government would not use the money properly. Britain argues that the commission has no right to dictate regional policy.

Newspaper round jobs are put in jeopardy

By DAVID YOUNG

THE traditional newspaper round, which has given several captains of industry an early taste for work, is at risk, according to the body which represents regional newspapers. Half a million newspaper delivery boys and girls could lose their pocket money because of an EC directive, the Newspaper Society says.

A "pre-consultation draft directive" on the protection of young people at work outlines plans to outlaw all jobs carried out by young people before school hours, the society says. It is now preparing to make representations to the government and the European Commission. Newspaper delivery is the most popular job for

children under 16, with about one in six having a paper round.

Dugal Nisbet-Smith, the society's director, said: "British schoolchildren earn good pocket money and learn the discipline of a daily work commitment as news deliverers. Any EC directive forbidding this type of early work experience is wholly unjustified."

David Daniel, secretary of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, said: "The European Commissioner, Madame Papandreu, sent us a letter in August which we took as an assurance that employment of news boys and girls would not be affected."

Press-tormenting imp is 35

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER as waspish as a good gossip in a Fleet Street pub, or as ponderous as a morning editorial conference, *What The Papers Say* has given journalists the chance to cast a critical eye over their colleagues' work for 35 years today.

Almost as old as independent television itself, the first programme, in November, 1956, dissected newspaper reports of the Soviet invasion of Hungary. Through the years it has kept journalists on their toes with the threat of unwelcome scrutiny.

Its presenters have included some of the best-known names in British journalism. Barbed comments, acerbic wit and cogent analysis has been provided by Brian Inglis, Harold Evans, Nigel Lawson, Michael Foot, Clive James, Paul Foot, Auberon Waugh, Malcolm Muggeridge, Katherine Graham, Anne Robinson, Alastair Burnet, Bernard Levin,

Hugh Cudlipp, Alan Coren, Roy Hattersley, Richard Ingrams, Anthony Howard and Jean Rook.

The late Robert Maxwell presented one edition when he was trying to buy the *News of the World* in 1969.

The programme, which celebrates its anniversary with an edition presented at 7.45pm today by the *Guardian* journalist Edward Pearce, has investigated press reaction to just about everything from the fall of the Berlin wall to Elvis in the afterlife. "It has relished scandal after scandal, but it has also watched the press exalt Gazza," Paul Vickers, its researcher, said yesterday. "Venerable, papers may be, but the programme remains the Puck of the press, the mischievous imp in the grounds of the fourth estate."

Although still produced by Granada, the programme was taken over by BBC2 in 1988 after Michael Grade, the Channel 4 chief executive,



Caught on the hoof: a passer-by is surprised to see a live horse in a shop window, part of an off-beat exhibition at a shopping centre in Bermondsey, southeast London. Other exhibits include body parts, 600 pencils and Tuscan columns

Yard cuts total on light work

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard is reforming the system allowing injured officers to be kept on light duties until they are completely fit because the number on restricted work such as desk duties has now reached more than 1,300. The numbers have grown to the point where the Yard cannot find work for all the officers.

The new system, which could lead to some officers being retired on health grounds and speed others back to work, will be introduced next week and has already drawn criticism from junior ranks. Yesterday, Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, said it was a disgrace that the police could not look after their own.

But John Smith, the deputy commissioner, told the force in the latest edition of the *Yard's* internal newspaper: "It has become increasingly difficult to find suitable employment for those on long term restricted duties. I do recognise some difficult decisions will have to be made."

At the moment an officer who is injured, whether on duty or at any other time, is placed on restricted duties. There are various grades and officers can continue the work indefinitely. The numbers have increased to 1,346 officers out of a total manpower of 28,000.

Under the new system, injured officers will be placed on light duties temporarily if it is thought they will recover within a reasonable period of time. If not, they will be retired. All present cases will be reviewed over the next three years.

Minister to vote against Haughey

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey's battle to survive took a turn yesterday with the announcement by his finance minister that he will support a no-confidence motion against the Irish prime minister tomorrow.

After a day of rumour and speculation, Albert Reynolds, considered the strongest candidate to succeed Mr Haughey, issued a brief statement indicating that he would be voting against his prime minister.

Mr Reynolds, aged 56, who represents Longford/Westmeath, said that for some time there had been considerable instability and an erosion of confidence in the government.



Haughey: 12 difficult years at the top

that could not be allowed to continue. He said the country and Fianna Fáil depended for their well-being on strong, decisive leadership, and he was not satisfied that that now existed.

Mr Reynolds' decision, which was not accompanied by his resignation from the cabinet, came after the unexpected tabling of a motion of no confidence by Sean Power, a deputy from Kildare. The motion is to be tabled at a special meeting of the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party tomorrow morning.

For much of yesterday until Mr Reynolds made his decision known, it looked as if Mr Haughey was on course to win the vote comfortably, and his supporters were sounding confident. However, Mr Reynolds' decision places a new complexion on events and suggests that he believes there are enough waverers among the party's 77 deputies to swing behind him and force Mr Haughey out after 12 difficult years at the top.

Mr Reynolds, a father of seven who once ran a string of ballrooms and now owns a thriving pet food company, opted not to challenge Mr Haughey two weeks ago, during a previous bout of leadership speculation.

£63m overpayment to GPs written off

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, yesterday wrote off a £63 million overpayment to the country's 30,000 family doctors in an attempt to head off a damaging dispute with the profession in the run-up to the election.

Coming in the wake of Wednesday's £1.5 billion injection of extra cash into the health service next year, Mr Waldegrave's concession was seen by Conservative MPs as an important olive branch in the government's battle to secure the support of doctors for its health reforms.

Before Mr Waldegrave's intervention, family doctors on average annual earnings of £38,000 were facing the prospect of repaying £5,951 a head in stages because of overpayments last year flowing from the launch of a fiercely contested new employment contract. His decision to waive part of the overpayment will save them £2,100 each.

The overpayment arose partly because doctors were more successful than expected in meeting performance targets for child immunisations and cervical cytology screening set out in the contract.

The prospect of repaying the money on the orders of the doctors' review body had angered leaders of the British Medical Association, who argued that at the very least the health secretary should hon-

our a commitment to reward GPs for meeting the screening targets. Yesterday, Mr Waldegrave invited GPs' leaders to discuss the fate of the remaining £3,851 per head overpayment. He said: "GPs have responded to the GP contract in an unprecedented way... Targets for immunisation and cancer screening have been achieved by many GPs and their practice teams."

The health secretary said that the scale of fees set for the current year was delivering a higher than intended level of income and this problem needed to be addressed urgently. He was inviting GPs' leaders to talk about submitting joint evidence to the review body to bring payments into balance next year.

GPs yesterday welcomed the concession which they claimed would "partly right the wrong" caused by the government's interference with last year's pay review body award. Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the British Medical Association GPs committee, said: "By waiving completely the £2,100 in so-called overpayment... the secretary of state is acknowledging the unprecedented and magnificent response of GPs in trying to make the new contract work."

Polly Toynbee, page 16
MP quits committee, page 22

Labour leads by 8 points

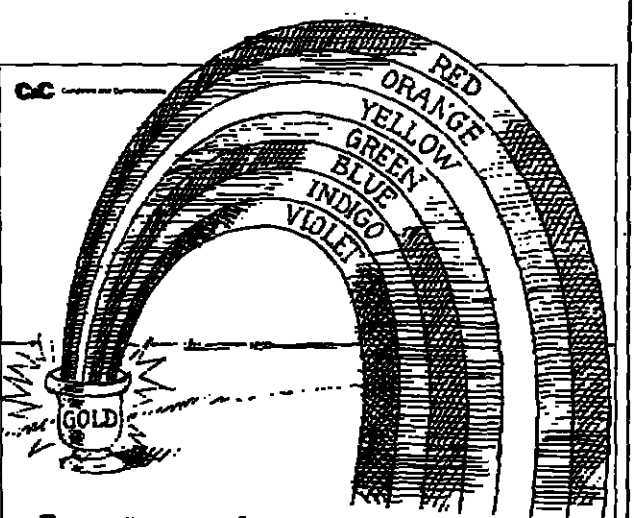
THE Conservative party, already braced for defeat in two of yesterday's by-elections, received bad news last night with the latest Gallup poll, published in today's *Daily Telegraph*, giving Labour a lead of eight percentage points in a survey of 1,066 voters, conducted between October 29 and November 4. The survey puts support for the parties at Labour 44 per cent, Conservatives 36, Liberal Democrats 15.5 and others 4.5.

This is Labour's largest lead for several months, following a poll last week which had shown the Conservatives regaining ground and Labour with a lead of only two points.

A further Gallup study, based on 10,834 interviews throughout October, however, made happier reading for the government. This puts support for the parties at Conservatives 41 per cent, Labour 40.4, Liberal Democrats 13.8, and others 4.8.

No Aids let-up

Aids is not yet contained in the United Kingdom and its transmission by heterosexuals is increasing, Dr Kenneth Calman said yesterday in his first speech on the subject since taking over as the government's chief medical officer. He told a conference on the disease in London there was still little chance of a vaccine being developed quickly.



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Magistrates impose £250 penalty on man who triggered fatal crash

Relatives of M4 victims disgusted by 'paltry' fine

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE young driver whose carelessness caused the first of a series of crashes on the M4 last March, in which ten people died, was fined £250 by magistrates yesterday. Justin Biddle, aged 20, a stonemason who earns £190 a week and has been driving for three years, claimed he hit the central reservation barrier of the M4 after swerving to avoid a flying object, possibly a bird. His fine provoked protests from relatives of the victims. Shaun Doole, aged 35, whose brother-in-law, Steve Evans, died, said: "The relatives will be absolutely sickened at this paltry fine; £25 for each life would be laughable if it wasn't so tragic. The fine is just beer money, less than two weeks' wages. Personally I am disgusted. Why wasn't he given the maximum fine, if nothing else?"

University research threatened

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

LEADING research departments in the social sciences may have to be rescued from the effects of changes in the funding of universities, Howard Newby, chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council, said yesterday.

This week's autumn statement confirmed that more than £300 million is to be removed from university budgets over the next three years to be allocated specifically by the research councils. Professor Newby said that he was concerned for the future of leading social science departments in universities which fail to secure funding in the more lucrative science disciplines.

"Where universities are not competitive in the natural sciences and engineering, vice-chancellors will seek to claw back the money they have lost by taking more students," he said. With demand for undergraduate places in the arts and social sciences at a peak, universities may be tempted to overload academics with teaching commitments at the expense of valuable research.

A number of top-rated departments in economics, politics, sociology and psychology are located in universities where other subjects may lose their research funding. Some of the new universities, as well as the polytechnics, may be vulnerable to such a trend.

Professor Newby, who is also a member of the Universities Funding Council, said: "It is going to be very difficult for universities to survive as research institutions if their top-rated departments are scattered randomly."

In his introduction to yesterday's annual report of the ESRC, Professor Newby promised a new relationship with universities and polytechnics to secure the position of the social sciences. The council would adopt a more positive role in shaping research provision.



Disastrous consequences: scene of the accident in which ten people died and, right, Justin Biddle, who admitted careless driving



Flushing is made a bit easier

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH engineer is claiming to have made the biggest breakthrough in water closet research since Thomas Crapper invented his "valveless waste water preventer" 100 years ago.

Alan Sommerfield, an industrial designer, has patented "the Sommerfield solid state siphon", which should banish forever the problems and embarrassment often encountered when using conventional manual flush systems.

The device, which works with a gentle squeeze of a bulb, has no moving parts and is less prone to breakdowns. The lavatories should be cheaper to make and the system, which can be made into an almost unlimited variety of shapes, will make them suitable for cramped or awkward settings.

They can be built so thin that they can be hung like a picture on the wall or hidden from vandals, said a spokesman for the British Technology Group, which is supporting Mr Sommerfield. It also believes that the ease of flushing should make the device popular with the disabled and arthritis sufferers.

Clarke forces tests' publication

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

LEAGUE tables of this year's testing of pupils aged seven in England and Wales in English, mathematics and science are to be published by the government, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said yesterday, despite earlier promises that the publication this year would be optional.

Under the government's schools bill now before Parliament, schools will have to publish their examination and national curriculum test results and truancy rates. The new arrangements will be phased in from summer 1992.

Preliminary results of the first national tests for 600,000 pupils aged seven carried out this year show that children are falling behind the standards expected of them, with one in four being unable to read and many local authorities have been reluctant to pass on their full results. Mr Clarke said that so far only 22 of the 113 local education authorities in England and Wales had reported the results of this year's tests.

In a letter yesterday to local authorities, he asked for complete results and said that he had a legal right to demand the information. Once he receives all the information he will publish not only the national figures but league tables showing how each local authority

Main points of legislation

The main points of the new schools bill are:

- the publication of league tables giving examination and national curriculum testing results, truancy rates and school leaver destinations for every school in their area, including independent ones;
- a teacher's written report on children's progress each year;
- a short, jargon-free summary of inspection reports;
- an action plan by school governors detailing how they will tackle problems highlighted by inspectors;
- schools must arrange own inspection every four years;
- governors must ask for at least two tenders before deciding on inspection team.

had performed. The authorities that have responded so far are: Avon, Berkshire, Berkshire, Bury, Cleveland, Cornwall, Croydon, Enfield, Essex, Hammersmith, Havering, Hereford and Worcester, Humberside, Kingston upon Thames, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Solihull, Stockport, Sutton, Rotherham, Westminster, and West Sussex.

Speaking at a press conference in London to announce details of the new bill, which would ensure that parents are given as much information as possible about schools, Mr Clarke said that it was "quite extraordinary" that the information had been kept secret from parents for so long.

Mr Clarke rejected the idea that the examination results should become part of a table showing how a school had improved the performance of its pupils in relation to their

backgrounds and basic intelligence. "Parents want straightforward information so that they can make their own decisions," he said.

"It is patronising parents to think that they will not understand them. They do not want a great academic tome covered in footnotes with a closely argued academic commentary. We will publish incontrovertible facts that can be used by the general public, parents and the experts."

"My critics complain about the use of raw information. They seem to want it cooked before it is passed on to parents. We will make accessible to parents vital information that has, up until now, lain in the dusty desk drawers of local bureaucrats," Mr Clarke said.

The bill also sets out the new school inspection system, which will radically change the role of Her Majesty's

Inspectors of Schools and abolish local authority inspectors. HMI, shrunk from 480 inspectors to 175, will carry out its own inspections and advise the government on educational matters.

The main task, however, will be to approve and monitor the new teams of up to 5,000 private inspectors that will be expected to carry out four-yearly inspections of the 24,000 state schools in England and Wales. Local authorities which wish to continue inspection will have to be approved by the HMI and could offer their services on a commercial basis to schools both inside and outside their boundaries.

New inspectors could be struck off the approved register by the chief inspector if they produced a seriously misleading report, and schools and anybody who obstructed an inspection team employed by the governors could be fined up to £1,000.

Schools will have to ask for tenders from at least two teams of inspectors, which will include management experts as well as teachers. Rejecting Labour's claim that inefficient schools and headteachers will be able to choose teams that will give them a favourable report, Mr Clarke said: "Once having selected them they will find it difficult to complain."

Mr Clarke said that the government did not intend to publish tables based on complicated formulae, such as that proposed earlier this week by the Audit Commission as a way of assessing how effective schools were in providing "value-added education". The experts could use the basic detail to work out their own scoring system, he said.

Howard Davies, controller of the commission, said that the publication of examination results did not help parents to see how well schools were teaching children of different backgrounds and ability. The only fair way was to judge A-level performances against GCSE results to see how far children had improved.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, described the new inspection plans as crackpot and doctrinaire. "Allowing schools to pick and choose their own inspector runs counter to this government's philosophy. In every other area it has strictly, and correctly, separated the regulator from the provider. This is as absurd as asking a restaurant to choose its own food inspector."

Leading article, page 17

Black box might improve driving

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A BLACK box similar to those used in aircraft could be fitted to cars to record a range of activities for use as evidence in case of an accident.

The Driving Accident Co-ordination Observer (Draco) is being developed under a European Community programme, and researchers believe its presence could lead to more careful driving.

Bill Fincham, an electronics engineer and one of the researchers developing the device, said the inhibiting effect on lorry drivers of controls such as the tachograph, which had been introduced in 1982, had been demonstrated by a report that some had been spotted trying to eat its tape at scenes of accidents.

Draco, linked to sensors fitted to various parts of the car, would record 113 seconds of data one second at a time. If the device detects a collision, it begins transferring information into its memory, which stores 100 seconds of information from before the crash and 13 seconds during and after.

Each recorder, details of which are published in the latest *New Scientist* magazine, would cost about £100.

A transport department spokesman said developments were being watched with interest, but there were no plans to introduce the device.

TUC recants on Japanese

Trade unions tried yesterday to repair the damage done by the attacks at this year's Trades Union Congress conference on "alien" working practices in British factories. The general secretary of the TUC said unequivocally that Japanese employers were welcomed by British unions.

Norman Willis, who was addressing the Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute at the Royal Society of Arts in London, said the welcome for Japanese employers was not just because of the employment they created, but the nature of it. "By and large, they do many of the things that trade unions are continually asking British firms to do," Mr Willis said.

Spider surprise

A divorcee who was sent a heart-shaped box through the post found it contained a live tarantula. Elizabeth Wells, aged 58, of Axford, Wiltshire, dropped the box and the spider escaped, although it was later caught. Police believe the box could have been sent by a jealous admirer. "It could either have been a deliberate attempt to injure her or a sick attempt to frighten her," a spokesman said.

Synod survey

Supporters of ordination of women as priests face defeat in the Church of England general synod, according to a poll of 15 per cent of synod members in the *Church of England Newspaper* today. It found that 57 per cent plan to support ordination in next year's vote — 9 per cent short of the two-thirds majority needed — with 8 per cent undecided or refusing to disclose intentions and 35 per cent opposed.

Post haste

Mail bound for Ascension Island, in the south Atlantic, must be sent by next Tuesday to catch the Christmas boat, the Post Office said yesterday. Surface mail for British Forces in the Gulf and Turkey must be posted by next Friday, and mail for other destinations, such as the Azores, Gibraltar, Italy and Vatican City, by November 19. Last Christmas posting dates for air mail will be issued later this month.

Cold war radar relic saved

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A COLD WAR artefact that played a vital but unsung role in Britain's defences against a Soviet nuclear first strike has been saved by the Science Museum.

The Klystron transmitter, a two-tonne version of the devices that attracted dust in old television sets, is one of few items remaining from an operationally secret radar installation at Boulmer, Northumberland, that has just been demolished.

Boulmer was one of three Type 85 radar sites that linked in with the distinctive "golf balls" of Fylingdales, on the North Yorkshire moors, to provide Britain's cold war early warning system, said Eryl Davies, research co-ordinator at the museum, who is responsible for the acquisition.

Sir Eric Dunn, retired RAF chief engineer, who worked at Boulmer, said: "They were kept very close to the chest. Even within the

RAF, I do not think anybody outside the air defence people realised what capability these radar had."

The radar sites, which became operational in the late Sixties, were the brainchild of engineers at the Royal Radar Establishment, Great Malvern, in conjunction with Associated Electrical Industries and EMI.

Fylingdales offered a four-minute warning of ballistic missile attack. The radar were designed to give a 20-minute warning of Soviet nuclear aircraft. To do that, which involved spotting aircraft up to 350 miles away, flying at a speed of Mach 0.8, required radar beams of unprecedented power.

Power was also needed to "burn through" Soviet jamming, Sir Eric said.

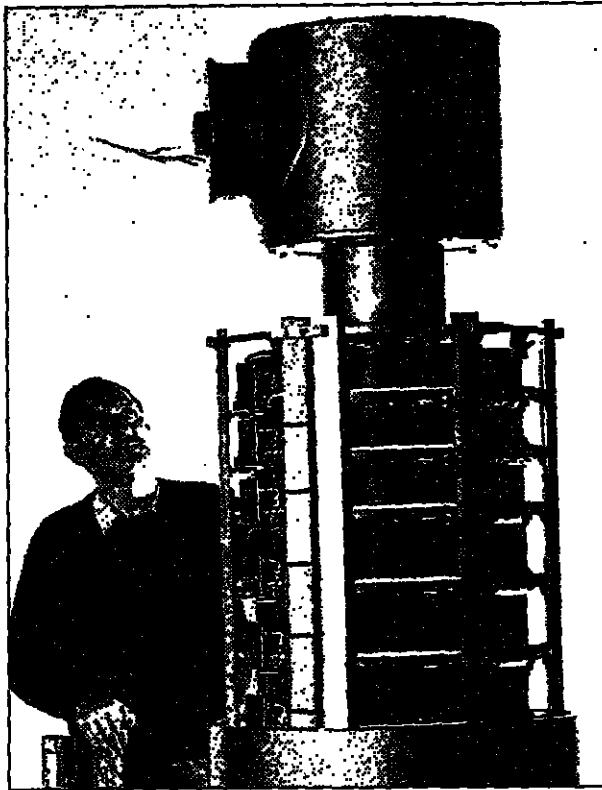
Up to 12 of the big Klystrons could be used to amplify the radar pulses, each operating at a peak power of as much as 10

megawatts. The radar needed five diesel generators, enough to heat and light a large town when operating at full power.

Vast and elaborate wave guides and mechanical slipping systems were needed to feed impulses into the radar's 60-tonne rotating antenna. The guides ended in a 30ft tall, 2in-thick pressure vessel, which discouraged sparking during generation of the huge electrical fields.

The system usually operated with only one Klystron. "To fire up the other 11 might have indicated to the Russians, who would have been listening, that we had this capability," Sir Eric said.

The Klystron case highlights growing worries about conserving cold war and recent industrial relics. Mr Davies believes that the number of such artefacts is not fully appreciated and that many may be scrapped.



A Science Museum employee views a Sift valve from the cold war radar system it has saved

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Heveningham Hall sale

Heseltine given five weeks to save house

By JOHN YOUNG

ACTION must be taken by the government within the next five weeks to save Heveningham Hall, the neo-classical mansion in Suffolk, for the nation, a report published yesterday by Save Britain's Heritage says.

Unless Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, exercises his option to buy the house, the receivers will sell it without the covenants which he imposed in 1981 to ensure that it was regularly opened to the public, the report says.

Heveningham was in government ownership between 1970 and 1981, when it was sold to ID Investment Development, owned by the Iraqi businessman Abdul Amir al Ghazzi, who died last March. The company went into receivership in September, and under the terms of the original sale the government has until December 11 to take up an option to regain it.

Marcus Binney, Save's president, said that public opinion alone should persuade Mr Heseltine to intervene. If the government reacquired the house, the two main solutions would be to hand its welfare to either English Heritage or the National Trust, both of which would require an endowment to fund its upkeep. The money could be provided through the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

When the fund was established in 1980, the government had said that it would consider making a special allocation to the fund if large country houses came on to the

market unexpectedly. During the 1980s more than £30 million was made available for the purchase of five houses. These, however, were offered in lieu of tax obligations, whereas Heveningham was an experiment in the privatisation of a government-owned property, which is now seen to have failed.

English Heritage said yesterday that it wanted Heveningham to remain in private ownership, but conceded that the chances of finding a buyer with the necessary resources were remote.

The National Trust said that the government had a responsibility to ensure the house was cared for without compromising its integrity. No approach had so far been made by the government to the trust. Although it would consider Heveningham if requested to do so, the trust said it was not looking to add to its ownership of historic houses, especially without a full endowment for its upkeep and the necessary funds for repairs.

Heveningham was designed by Sir Robert Taylor for Sir Gerard Vanneck in 1752 and stands in a 500-acre park laid out by Capability Brown. The interior plasterwork, painting and furnishings by James Wyatt are considered to be among the finest in Europe.

The house and grounds were opened to the public for the first time in 1967. Three years later they were sold to the government for just over £300,000 by the Vanneck family. From 1976 onwards it

was cared for by the National Trust, until it was sold to Mr Ghazzi for £726,000. But in 1984 the east wing was gutted by fire, and thefts of important features followed.

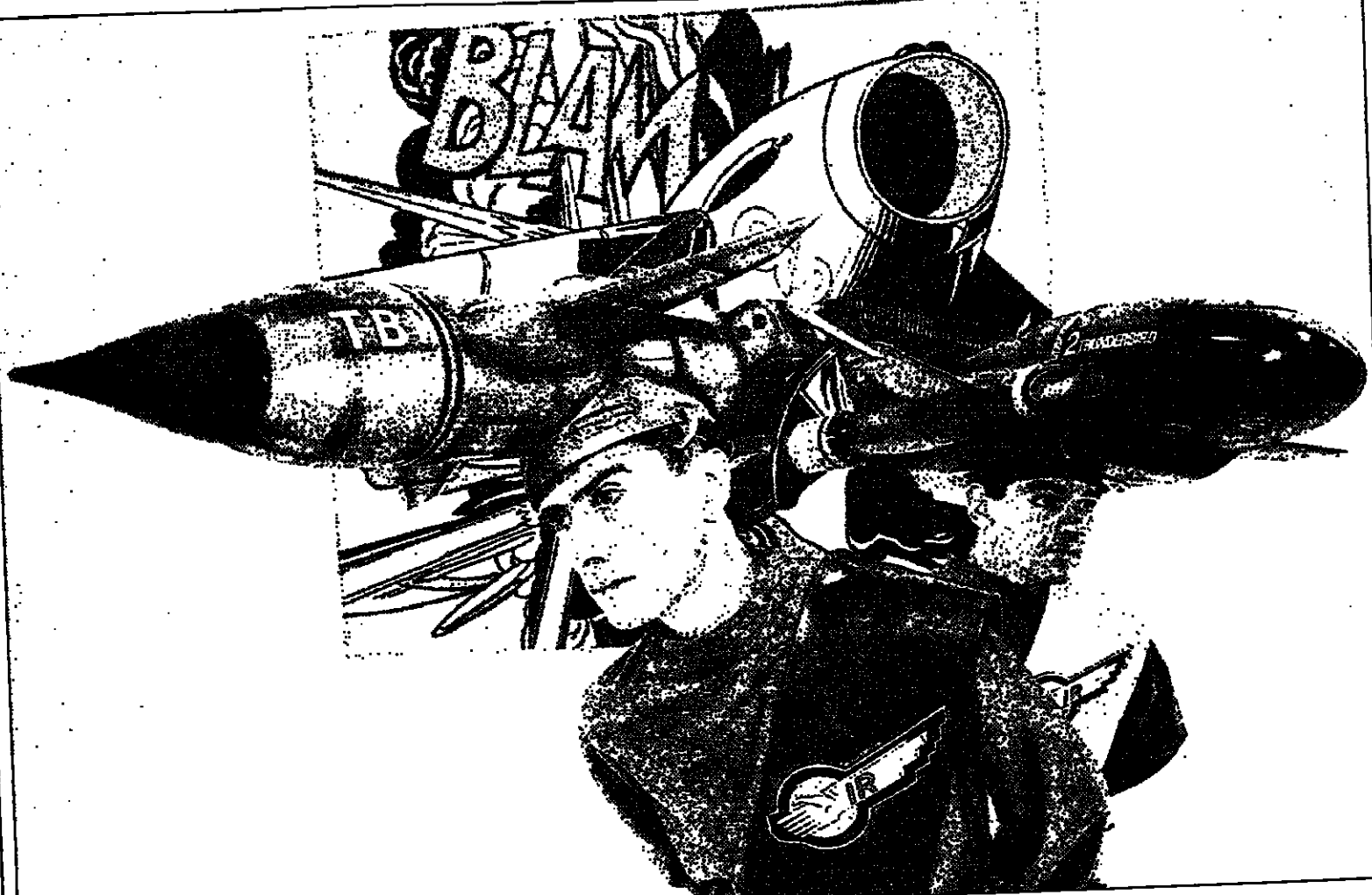
Since then the restoration programme has been praised in some quarters and fiercely condemned in others.

Experience has shown that Heveningham is not suitable as a private family house, Save says. Resale to a private buyer would expose it to the very risks that have had such unfortunate results over the last ten years.

Handing over the house to English Heritage, which has the ability to manage it, could prove significantly cheaper than providing an endowment for the National Trust, the report adds. Trust ownership is the most attractive but the most expensive option.

Heveningham Must be Saved for the Nation (Save, 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11, £4.50)

Leading article, page 17



No strings attached: to the backdrop of Roy Lichtenstein's *Blam!* the mime artists Paul Kent, left, and Wayne Forester prepare to stage excerpts from their show *Thunderbirds FAB* at last night's party for Friends of the Royal Academy in Piccadilly, London. The pair bring to life the puppets from the cult television programme at the Ambassadors theatre. The academy's pop art show runs until December 15

Lawyers advise on Yard case

Scotland Yard has called in an independent firm of solicitors and leading counsel to advise on how to deal with the case of Wyn Jones, the assistant commissioner investigated for alleged impropriety (Stewart Tendler writes).

One of four assistant commissioners at the Yard, Mr Jones has been on leave since allegations against him surfaced last autumn. His case was investigated by West Yorkshire officers and a report was passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who ruled there was no evidence for a criminal action.

The Yard and the Home Office have considered creating a special tribunal to examine the case because no disciplinary regulations exist to cover someone with Mr Jones's special status technically, he is not a police officer but the holder of a special Crown appointment. Lawyers are said to have warned that the move could be fraught with legal dangers.

Now the Yard has passed the papers to outside legal advisers for their views on how the matter might be handled. One result may be the creation of a tribunal.



Jones: no evidence to warrant criminal action

Mann flies east

The former Lebanon hostage Jack Mann arrived at his new home in Cyprus yesterday after being flown from the Royal Air Force rehabilitation centre at Headley Court, Surrey, where he has spent the past five weeks. Mr Mann, aged 77, was met at Akrotiri air force base by his wife, Sunnie, and driven to the couple's rented home in Nicosia. He was described as physically frail but mentally well.

Firemen's 5.6%

Firefighters were yesterday awarded a 5.6 per cent pay increase — the lowest given under a formula agreed in 1977 linking their pay to male manual workers' wages. The rise for 42,000 full-time and 17,000 part-time firemen and firewomen increases weekly pay for a qualified firefighter by £15 to £292. A Fire Brigades Union official said: "It reflects the effects of the recession on manual earnings."

Scientists do some serious drinking

By NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENCE EDITOR

TWO American scientists have discovered how to put the fizzy back in physics by studying the behaviour of bubbles in beer.

When they get home late, they can tell their wives they were working on Rayleigh-Taylor instability, or the ratio of inertial to viscous forces on a sphere moving through a fluid. If that fails, they can point out that neither Stokes's Law nor Olsen's Law seems quite able to account for their observations. That should silence all but the most determined of women.

Neil Shafer and Richard Zare, from Stanford University, describe their adventures in licensed premises in the current issue of *Physics Today*. For those eager to repeat them, Professor Zare points out that a fizzy, American-style beer is required.

In an ordinary glass of beer, they say, bubbles form at rough spots on the surface of the glass, known as nucleation sites, where molecules of carbon dioxide attach themselves and coalesce. Often strings of bubbles will stream upwards from the same spot.

As they rise, the bubbles grow by accumulating more carbon dioxide. Bigger bubbles are more buoyant, but also suffer a greater drag. Drag forces increase more slowly than buoyancy, so the bubbles accelerate. This is why, in a stream of rising bubbles, those closer to the surface are larger, move more quickly and are further apart than those near the bottom.

But what about the head? In pure water, a rising bubble bursts the second it reaches the surface, but at the beach the waves have foamy caps. The difference is accounted for by surfactants, films of oily material on the ocean surface. In beer, the persistence of the head is determined by the quantity of surfactants.

To complicate the issue, the surfactants affect the rising bubbles by forming a rigid wall around them, which reduces lubrication and increases the bubbles' wake. In a long enough glass — say, a yard of ale — the bubble would grow so large that it would oscillate as its wake was shed, and would travel not straight but in a zigzag or helical path.

Professor Zare says the research took two years. "Every time I thought I understood it, I found I didn't," he says. "There were always further complications." There speaks a true beer drinker.

"People ask me if the work has any practical use. I did it for curiosity's sake, but it could be useful. When you are extracting oil from old wells by pumping fluids down, you get the same effects."



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Fowler fights to lead Tory Europe group

Sir Norman's candidature will mean that the contest is seen as a battle between the Euro-sceptic and enthusiast wings. His closeness to the prime minister means he is to act as his "minder" during the general election campaign — should give him a head start, although Mr Cash's backers will treat it as a test of policies rather than of personalities. The right-wing vote will be enhanced by the knowledge that Sir Norman has the backing of the Lollards.

Sir Norman is not on the official slate of the Lollards, the liberal wing's organising group for party elections, but he is known to be supported by its members. He is expected, however, to be more likely to reflect a centrist position in tune with the government's approach in the run-up to the

The chairmanship of the committee, which confers ready access to the media and ministers, is widely seen at Westminster as a key post. Right-winger



He criticised the government as "this discredited and incompetent administration" which peddled "word out and increasingly unconvincing confidence tricks".

Alan Beith, for the Liberal Democrats, said that the most effective mechanism to achieve price stability was a central bank dedicated to that objective.

COMET
YOU KNOW WHERE TO COME

Dairy farmers find their free trade initiative going sour

By providing cheaper milk and improving their profits, farmers have incurred the agriculture minister's wrath, discovers Michael Hornsby

IF STEPHEN Brook, a Yorkshire dairy farmer, were given to writing letters to newspapers, he would be signing himself "Disgusted of Huddersfield". That sums up his feelings about John Gummer, the agriculture minister.

Earlier this week, Mr Gummer announced that he would contest a legal challenge from the European Commission accusing the Milk Marketing Board of unlawful intimidation of Mr Brook and other farmers who want to improve profitability by processing their milk and selling it directly to customers.

"I am disgusted that a minister who says he is in favour of free trade should have sided with the board and the big dairies to eliminate competition from family farms like ours," Mr Brook said. "Because of our higher labour costs and smaller turnover we have to get closer to our markets to survive."

In the late Seventies, Mr Brook, who runs a dairy herd on his Wheatley Hill farm at



Uncowed: Stephen Brook with two of his Friesian dairy herd on his farm near Huddersfield

Clayton West, set up a co-operative with 14 other local farmers. They invested more than £300,000 in a dairy and processing plant, Hildale Farms Ltd, to pasteurise their raw milk. At first, the co-operative worked within the board

scheme. That meant, absurdly, selling members' milk to the board, which has the sole right of purchase in England and Wales, and buying it back at 25 per cent higher than they had been paid. Only then could they put their milk into

their own dairy. "On our own initiative we visited Brussels and were advised that only whole milk was covered by the board's powers. If we processed the milk ourselves, turning it into skimmed or low-fat milk, we

could legally sell directly to our customers, by-passing the board. So this is what we started doing in April of 1989," Mr Brook said.

The co-operative's members improved their returns by an average of between £20,000

and £25,000 a year. Running their own milk rounds in Huddersfield, Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield, Leeds and Doncaster, they could offer milk at 2p a pint cheaper than that through the board.

"We immediately came under great pressure from the board," Mr Brook said. "We were threatened with fines of £1,000 a day if we persisted. Early this year we had letters threatening legal action. Then, in what looked suspiciously to us like a co-ordinated move, Northern Foods, one of the big food manufacturers, offered to buy us out."

Mr Brook was against the sale, but other members of the co-operative were bucking under the pressure and decided that it was better to accept the offer than face a long legal battle with the board. The dairy was sold in May for £3.25 million and closed almost immediately with a loss of 60 jobs.

"We had been told the dairy would be kept going, but it seems the aim was simply to buy the competition out," Mr Brook said. "Our members have been forced back into selling all their milk through the board. I think that the European Commission will force the board to change in the end, but that will come too late to save our co-operative."

Funding of the arts

Increase of 14% hailed by Palumbo

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE ARTS Council is to get its biggest ever funding boost next year with a £27 million increase. At 13.9 per cent, the rise is almost a full 10 per cent above projected inflation and marks a third successive year of substantial increments.

Tim Renton, who took over as arts minister from David Mellor, the present Treasury chief secretary, 11 months ago, said: "I will be looking to arts companies to match this increase in government support with extra income earned through enhanced quality and larger audiences." The money was meant for artists and performing companies, "not administration."

"I see the arts as vital to the bloodstream of this country for understanding our history, our heritage, and our future," he said.

The council will decide next month how to share out the money, but "flagship" clients such as the Royal Opera House, English National Opera and the Royal Shakespeare Company might take a back seat to touring companies and the regional arts boards, which came into effect on October 1, with 1992-3 being the crucial year in the process of devolving arts support to the regions, which is due to come to fruition half way through the following financial year.

The forecast for arts funding in 1993-4 is for a more modest 3.6 per cent, and 3.3 per cent for 1994-5. The South Bank centre is expected to get a substantial grant increase, as is the London Symphony Orchestra, which takes up residency there in a year's time.

The government's total commitment to the arts next year is £610 million, compared with £561 million this year, a rise overall of 8.7 per cent. Lord Palumbo, chair-

man of the Arts Council, described the settlement as "a clear demonstration of the government's commitment to the arts", and praised Mr Mellor, "whose commitment to a knowledge of the arts can seldom, if ever, have been equalled by anyone occupying his office".

National museums and galleries are the poor relations this year, getting only a 3.5 per cent increase, although there are special project grants worth £2 million.

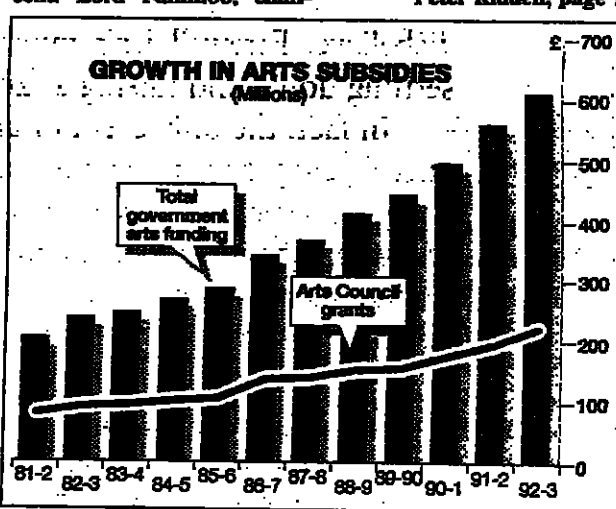
There is still to be no increase on purchase grants, which totalled £9 million for the seventh consecutive year, and a reduction in the arts minister's contribution to the acceptance-in-lieu system of acquiring works of art in place of inheritance tax.

This goes down from £2.4 million to £1 million, and the contribution to the National Heritage Memorial Fund is held at £5.5 million. Mr Renton said he hoped to persuade the Treasury to be more generous over tax incentives for arts donations and sponsorship in the future.

Mark Fisher, the shadow arts secretary, saw electioneering in the Mr Renton's allocations: "His strategy has been to buy off the most vocal part of the arts in an election year," he said. "While we welcome the increase to the Arts Council, how much will actually get to the companies remains to be seen. The price being paid is the heritage, where everything is either frozen or cut."

Since 1981 government arts funding has increased by over 35 per cent, but within that is the £450 million committed to the British Library St Pancras scheme. In the same period Arts Council grants have gone up by more than 36 per cent.

Peter Riddell, page 16



Legion deaths enquiry

AN ENQUIRY has been started into the deaths of two patients at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, after they contracted legionnaire's disease, it was disclosed yesterday.

Hospital officials believe that a piece of equipment may not have been properly disinfected. If the enquiry finds evidence of bad practice, the hospital and senior managers could be brought to court.

An air-conditioning system at the Royal Army Pay Corps headquarters near Winchester, Hampshire, was being examined yesterday after two soldiers contracted the disease. Both are now recovering.

Singer accused

Sandie Shaw the Sixties pop singer has denied failing to give a breath test after being stopped for suspected drink-driving. The case, in central London, was adjourned.

Pilot fined

Michael Smith, aged 52, of Adderbury, Oxfordshire, one of Britain's most experienced helicopter pilots, was fined £250 by Oxford crown court for negligently endangering the safety of an aircraft.

Soldier named

The Ulster Defence Regiment soldier killed by the IRA on Wednesday night has been named as Michael Boxall, aged 27, of Ballykelly, Co Londonderry.

Late award

Karen Hamilton, of Cumberland, Strathclyde, was awarded £1,655 compensation after being sacked for arriving at work one minute late.

Chamber broke

Exeter Chamber of Commerce and Trade has gone into voluntary liquidation, with debts of more than £100,000.

Museum's digs role defended

By SIMON TAIT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, has been asked to halt changes to archaeological provision in London, allowing an independent enquiry to report.

The Museum of London's two archaeological departments, for the City and for greater London, which have made such spectacular recent finds as the Elizabethan Rose Theatre and the Huggin Hill Roman baths, are being disbanded and replaced by a smaller reactive unit, with their advisory role for planning authorities being taken over by English Heritage.

A year ago an English Heritage report claimed that too much unnecessary excavation was being done, that giving planning advice was not compatible with bidding to do the resulting work and that post-excavation reports were being neglected.

Richard Morris, director of the Council for British Archaeology, of which the Prince of Wales is patron, said in a letter to Mr Heseltine: "There is widespread concern being voiced with a degree of unanimity which is unusual within the archaeological community that the reforms will lead to a serious decline in the quality of London's archaeological service."

Mr Heseltine has also received plans for intervention from the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers and the British Archaeological Trust, while Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, is seeking an urgent meeting with Baroness Blatch, the environment minister responsible for heritage matters.

Letters, page 17

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE and the annual Glenmorangie party was in full swing. Somewhere a door opened. A sudden waft of icy Firthside air provoked a flurry of goosepimples. And a briskly pedalling figure disappeared into the mist outside. 'Who was that?' asked a visitor. 'Oh, only George Mackenzie. He's away up to the mash-house to tend the mash.'

Even those who do not work at the distillery know of George's dedication to the mash. Ask him why on Christmas Eve, Burns' Night, even Hogmanay he will give up all to be with his charge, and he will reply: 'Time and the mash wait for no man.'



HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

FAREWELL ALASKA. IT'S WHERE A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY GOODBYE TO THEIR FEET.

It can get a mite cold up in the town of Farewell, Alaska. Down to minus 19°F on a good day and as low as minus 75°F if the locals are to be believed.

Not that there are many locals around to disbelieve. Farewell isn't much of a place for settling down and raising a family. No sir.

In fact, the only event of any note happens once a year when it becomes one of the staging posts for the last great race on earth, the Iditarod. This 1,049 mile dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome is about as tough a test of human endurance as you could think of.

Alone in the Arctic wilderness, having to endure days and nights of driving blizzards and temperatures way below zero with only your huskies for company, it can be a perilous, and at times fatal, place to test the limits of both the human body and the equipment designed to protect it.

This is precisely what makes it so attractive to Timberland, the small but legendary manufacturers of boots, shoes and clothing who sponsor the race.

Not that we just slap our name on a few posters and wait for the kudos and the dollars to roll in. Oh no. We use every freezing mile of the Iditarod, quite literally, as a testing ground.

Why, our boys in charge of boot development have even come up with the Mukluk, a boot based on the old Eskimo design for use by the 'mushers'. (Contestants to you and me.)

In fact, when the long, gruelling race is over each of the mushers is asked to review the boot's performance.

And what exactly do we learn that we don't know already? You'd be surprised.

We now know that even our best hides aren't a match for a rare krymp oxhide when temperatures sink to sub-zero levels.

We've also discovered that impregnating

the oxhide with silicone as we do with all our other hides just isn't enough.

First, we have to let the leather dry. Then, as it shrinks, the pores tighten to prevent even the tiniest drop of water seeping through to the inside. Naturally, this process is expensive as it requires extra leather for each boot. But we don't even give it a thought. We just figure you'd rather say hello to a large bill than goodbye to your feet.

Being alone in the Arctic wilderness might be good for the soul of a musher, but it's not always good for the sole of the boot he's wearing.

Once again, we use the one thing we've always relied upon to improve our products. Your wallet.

With your money behind us, we're able to shell out more for the polyurethane we make our soles from because it contains agents to guard against biochemical breakdown.

These dual-density soles are then permanently bonded to the upper of the boot using one of our many patents.

Then, just to make sure we keep your feet warm, we augment your natural body heat by adding Ensolite to the toe-caps and B-400 Thinsulate to the shaft, tongue and quarter.

But here's the rub.

As we found out along the 1,049 miles of the Iditarod, keeping your feet nice and toasty can be the worst thing for them. How come? Well, as you probably know, feet sweat. And damp inside a boot, however it gets there, is

bad news particularly at very low temperatures. Fortunately, Man has come up with a way of getting moisture out of a boot without you having to take the boot off.

The solution? Put another boot inside the boot, or rather a bootie made with Gore-Tex. This remarkable fabric has 9 billion pores per square inch, each one 20,000 times smaller than a raindrop, but 700 times larger than a molecule of perspiration.

So while water has no chance of getting in, perspiration vapour can easily get out.

As our friends in Farewell, Alaska will tell you (if you're ever foolish enough to pay them a visit) the men who race the Iditarod aren't very forgiving of anyone who lets them down.

With this very much in mind, we sew stress seams with four rows of nylon thread that will not rot and is virtually indestructible. To be sure, we employ a special 'lock' stitch which will not come undone even if accidentally cut, or in the unlikely event that it breaks.

This obsession with detail (and your survival) extends to the solid brass we use for our rust proof eyelets. The cup stiffeners built in to the heel and toe area which provide critical extra protection against bruising.

And the self-cleaning soles that prevent ice getting trapped in the tread and conducting cold through to the feet.

Fact is, in places like Farewell Alaska, feet are the two most important things a man can lay claim to.

Yes, we know what you're thinking. There are two other vital possessions a man owns.

But (i) the chances of them freezing is as remote as Alaska. And (ii) if they do, there's nothing Timberland makes that can help you.

Timberland

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Anniversary of bolshevik revolution brings a confused response from demonstrators

Defiant old guard accuse Gorbachev of treachery

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Great October Socialist Revolution fizzled out yesterday, its 74th birthday, overwhelmed in Moscow by lengthening bread queues and public antipathy.

An angry, if disorganised, crowd gathered briefly in Red Square, shouting "Lenin, Lenin", and accusing President Gorbachev of treachery. But there were no formal parades, no congratulatory slogans and no banners in the streets.

On the eve of the anniversary, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, had tapped the final nail into the coffin of the Communist party, pronouncing it illegal throughout Russian territory and banning party activities. President Gorbachev damned the bolshevik revolution with faint praise, telling the annual state awards ceremony in the Kremlin that "we do not want to cross out the lives of our grandfathers, fathers, mothers and what they have done in this land". However, he condemned Stalin unreservedly and, in a recognition of cur-

rent woes, tried to reassure his audience that supplies of food and fuel would not run short this winter.

Less respect was shown elsewhere. The Moscow daily *Kurany* published spoof slogans, along the lines of "Work-ers! Don't be misled by privatisation — socialist exploitation is the best in the world." There was pop music on most television channels. Only those stalwarts, the newspapers *Pravda* and *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, troubled themselves with congratulations.

Yesterday, about 5,000 people gathered at 9 am in October Square, beneath one of the last surviving statues of Lenin, to celebrate the anniversary. The mood veered from bitter resignation to defiance. Red flags were waved, and posters poured venom on Mr Gorbachev and President Yeltsin. Any mention of either name brought chants of "disgrace, disgrace". Rousing verses were recited, ending "Only by force will we overcome," and a small brass

band played. But the demonstrators, many with red ribbons pinned to their coats and small hammer-and-sickle flags, soon moved off towards the Kremlin.

Even fewer joined a ceremony and church service organised by the Christian Democrats to mourn the victims of communism. The Lubavanks loomed in the background, and the stump on which the statue of Dzerzhinsky, the founder of the Soviet secret police, had stood until August was guarded by police. The atmosphere was subdued. None of the firebrands of the democratic movement turned up and the quiet inspirational fervour that once marked such protests was gone.

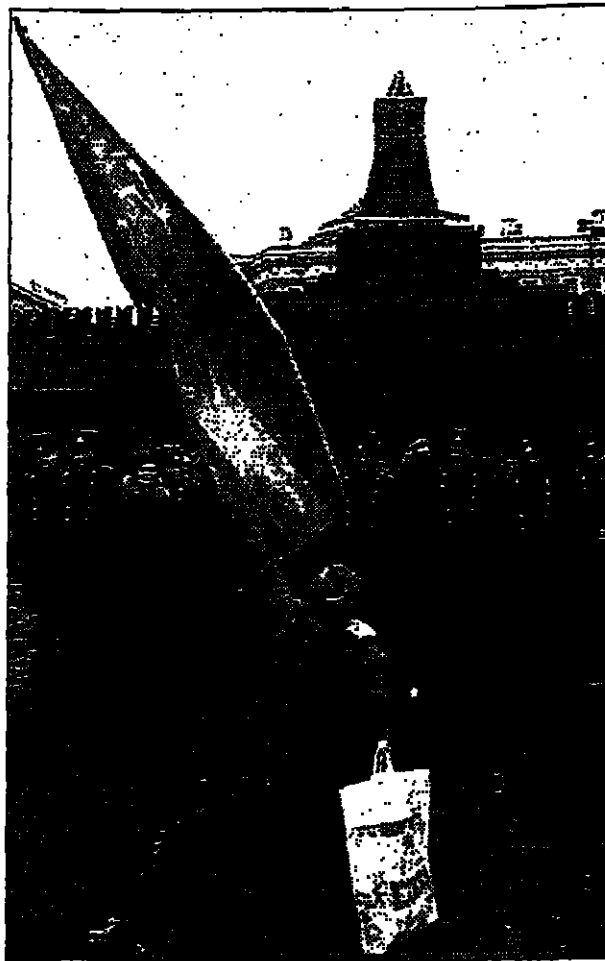
Only at midday, when a far larger crowd of communist supporters assembled in Red Square for what had been billed as a veterans' parade, was there a spark of spontaneity and risk. Agitated demonstrators who had joined the parade from October Square

joined the milling crowd threatened to surge towards the Lenin mausoleum.

The size and fury of the crowd, with its "Lenin" chants, and calls for Mr Gorbachev to be tried for treason, were unexpected and, for a time, out of control. Volunteers who had come to marshal the communist procession did not know what to do. "They've come on to the square from the wrong direction," one said.

Lines of police guarded Lenin's mausoleum, and several hundred reserves stood near by. Lorries and buses carrying reinforcements drew up in surrounding streets and along the Moskva river embankment. Within an hour, however, the crowds had dispersed, leaving little groups irritably disputing the merits or otherwise of the past 74 years. Holding aloft portraits of Marx, Lenin and Stalin, and singing the *Internationale*, they passed into the gloom.

Diary, page 16



Die-hard display: a protester waving the Soviet flag in front of Lenin's guarded mausoleum yesterday

Civic hand-outs steal a march on ideologists

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN ST PETERSBURG

THE bread and circuses of an old-fashioned municipal jam-boree won out over the passions of left and right yesterday as Russia's second city commemorated its revolutionary past in a state of utter ideological confusion.

Die-hard communists unfurled a sea of red flags at the battleship *Aurora*, known to every Soviet schoolboy for its heroic role in the bolshevik takeover, and pledged noisily to defend the workers' historic gains against a resurgent bourgeoisie. The class enemies' most stalwart forces, the liberals of the Democratic Russia movement, staged a funeral march down Nevsky Prospekt, the central thoroughfare, for the "hundred million victims" of what they prefer to call the treacherous coup d'état by the bolshevik clique.

Monarchists gathered at a ruined church and intoned prayers for the 1917 coup's most famous martyrs — the Romanov family. The gesture received little apparent thanks from that dynasty's present head, Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich, who is visiting the city. Liberal banners said: "No to Soviet Power". The communist ones read: "Long Live Soviet Power". An almost equally anachronistic slogan — "Down With Gorbachev" — was chanted with fervour by both sides.

In a city of ruined monuments to every period of history and well-read, pedantic folk, anti-communist demonstrators demanded the reconstitution of the Constituent Assembly, whose dissolution by the bolsheviks marked the onset of Soviet rule. Communist orators, meanwhile, called for 1917-style workers' councils to resist the self-off of factories. A Spanish student looked like the last young communist in the world as he stood bare-headed in the icy wind, thanking the Russian working-class for its achievements.

Both liberals and communists, for diametrically opposing reasons, denounced the hypocrisy of the small army of former communists who now call themselves reformists and businessmen. It was a bizarre new partnership between the former communist law professors who now rule the city, and the elderly Parisian nobleman whose ancestors used to.

None of the politically inspired demonstrations, marches or liturgies attracted more than a few thousand people. Tens of thousands, however, attended the festivities in Palace Square laid on

by Anatoli Sobchak, the mayor. The festivities' success compounded the prestige that Mr Sobchak has accrued through his hosting of the politically sensitive visit by the grand duke, who appeared at the mayor's side on Wednesday night in St Isaac's Cathedral, but was not to be seen during yesterday's fun and games.

There were parachutists who unfurled the new red-and-white banner of Russia in mid-air, stamens in vintage planes, a bigger and better brass band than either communists or liberals could muster, and, above all, delicious sandwiches of bread and smoked fish.

November 7 was, as many liberal-minded killjoys pointed out, rather a peculiar day on which to stage an outburst of officially-inspired rejoicing over Leningrad's reversion to its historic name. But never mind, argued Vladimir Voznenko, the weary civil servant who masterminded yesterday's festivities with the same administrative competence as he brought to dozens of public events during the communist regime.

"Half the population recognises the 1917 revolution, half doesn't, society is split. But we are all inhabitants of one city so we need festivals to be non-party, as unifying and depoliticised as possible," he said.

In the past, public rejoicing was of course subsidised by public funds. In the bracing new climate of free enterprise, Mr Voznenko explains, it has been possible to pay for the entire celebration with sponsorship money from the city's newly-created private enterprises.

Most residents seem prepared to swallow whatever misgivings they have about the cynical new class of former communist entrepreneurs as they milled about enjoying the fun. In this city ravaged by flood shortages, they know, so to speak, on what side their bread is buttered.

Hasn't Lenin's October Revolution remains the inspiration of Vietnam's communists, despite the collapse of communism in the Soviet union. Three official newspapers carried front-page photographs of Lenin and commentaries yesterday to mark the 74th anniversary of the 1917 bolshevik takeover.

Vietnam's communist party has moved the country towards a market-oriented economy since the late 1980s but rules out political pluralism or an end to its monopoly on power. (Reuters)

Sinking sense of inevitable at baths

By Bruce Clark

IN MOSCOW, more than in most places, the best things in life always used to be free, or at least negligible cost: the neo-classical glories of the metro, delicious brown bread, walks in Gorky Park and ... the Sandunovsky baths.

These gloriously decorated premises, barely a mile from the Kremlin, provide the grandest setting imaginable for the peculiar practice of exposing one's naked body to terrifying extremes of heat and the flailing of tightly bound birch twigs. But in a city centre where one crumbling establishment after another has been snapped up by French perfume houses or American law firms, the bath-house established in 1806 by actors at the imperial court has looked more and more like a sitting duck. How long could it be before some sharp-suited entrepreneur got his hands on those wrought-iron balustrades, those mannered murals?

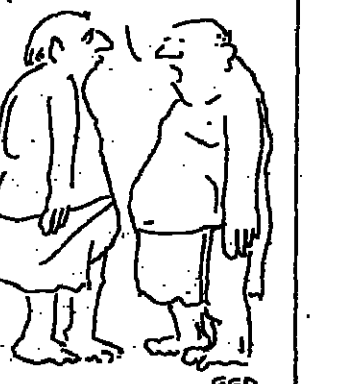
Hence the sight of demonstrators in Gorky Street protesting against plans to redevelop the building — by transferring it to a new joint stock company with the improbably altruistic name of the Moscow Art Centre — stirred a sinking sense of the inevitable. One of the finer institutions preserved in the aspic of communism looked doomed, like so many other less attractive things, to be washed away by the "icy waters of egotistical calculation", as they were described by Karl Marx. However, a visit to the baths — where profes-

sors and street-cleaners, had gathered in the equalising environment of lobster-pink nudity — suggested that things are not quite so simple.

The debate is not about whether the baths should be privatised, but in whose favour and how. The work-force — an astonishing 300 people — applied last spring to take the premises on long lease. But the city council turned down the proposal. Vladimir Alejev, the superintendent of the men's section, alleged that someone in municipal authority had an interest in some redevelopment plan.

The latest signs are that the city is willing, after all,

We're overdue for renovation



to turn over the building to its employees — who are looking for a wealthy Russian émigré to help them spruce up the premises and open a club or hotel in an adjacent block. What is not clear is whether it will still be possible to patronise the establishment for less than ten pence.

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Nato summit

Forces cut as fear of attacks diminishes

FROM MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN ROME

A NEW mission for Nato was approved by alliance government leaders yesterday at their summit here, based on crisis management, peace-keeping and co-operation with the former members of the now defunct Warsaw Pact.

The alliance's strategic concept for the future envisages a closely integrated political and military role, now that the threat of a massive and immediate attack from the Soviet Union has disappeared. Unlike its predecessor, the so-called MC14/3 alliance document, which remained classified, the new strategy for the alliance was published in full yesterday.

Also, unlike the older document, it was approved and signed by all 16 members of Nato, including France. The previous strategy was approved only by those whose countries were integrated into the military command structure.

Under the new strategy, the security risk to the alliance is judged to be instability which could be "multi-directional", varied and unpredictable. To cater for the changed environment, Nato's forces are to be reduced in size, placed at lower alert status and converted into flexible, multinational units. All Nato members have now indicated

how many troops they are prepared to contribute to the new forces. Britain will have 23,000 soldiers in Germany, all attached to the planned rapid reaction corps.

The document also makes it clear that, while there is a requirement for keeping nuclear weapons in Europe, the use of such systems has become even more remote a possibility than in the past. A senior Nato official said that the alliance's future strategy would be based on the triad of dialogue, co-operation and collective defence. The new element is co-operation.

The document admits that the risks to allied security are less likely to result from "calculated aggression", but rather from the consequences of serious economic, social and political difficulties in countries in central and eastern Europe. Nato's security interests would also be affected by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and acts of terrorism and sabotage.

There is a firm pledge that the alliance will keep a military capability in place sufficient to prevent war and to provide for effective defence. The document describes Nato as the "essential forum" for agreeing on policies connected with security and defence commitments. The transatlantic link, with both American and Canadian forces in Germany, also remains a crucial element.

Under the heading "Guidelines for Defence" the document envisages a broad approach to security. The alliance pledges never to use its weapons except in self defence. The long standing principle under which an attack on one member of the alliance is an attack on all is maintained. At the London Nato summit in June last year, the allies agreed to move away from the concept of forward defence towards a reduced forward presence, and to modify the principle of flexible response, under which nuclear weapons are used on a graduated scale of range and fire power. Now, nuclear weapons, while still needed to preserve peace, are regarded as weapons of "last resort".

● Berlin: Describing Nato as a private "elite club", Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovakia's foreign minister, called on the military alliance yesterday to conclude a treaty of "association" with his country. "What matters to us is the creation of a global, flexible and not too complicated system of political ties reciprocal with Nato," he wrote in the Berlin *Tagesspiegel* newspaper. (AFP)

Nato strategy, page 1



Perceptive gesture: Wim Kok, the Dutch prime minister, entertaining President Bush and John Major yesterday as they waited to line-up for the obligatory "family photo" at the Nato summit in Rome. The summit is to outline co-operation with former members of the Warsaw Pact

Leaders back US security role

By MICHAEL EVANS

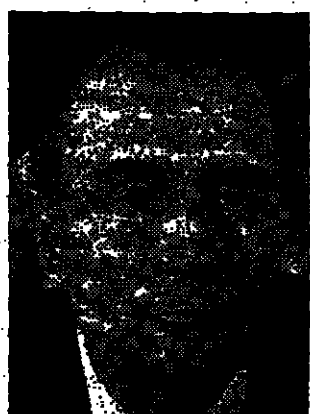
PRESIDENT Bush yesterday told his Nato partners in Europe that although Washington supported a stronger European defence identity, anything that weakened the role of the alliance "would find the US decisively opposed and hostile".

He added: "If you have something else in mind, if you want to go your own way, say so. If you don't need us any longer, say so."

Mr Bush's tactic appeared to work. All the Nato leaders agreed that a European defence without the Americans was unthinkable. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said that allied Europe was impossible without a united defence. But it was also impossible, he said, without Nato and the American presence. Herr Kohl did not mention the Western European Union, the forum expected to act as the main link between Nato and any new European force structures.

President Mitterrand issued a statement in which he said France supported the military strategy of the alliance while continuing to stay outside the integrated military command structure. He said the European identity would be "compatible and complementary" to the alliance.

M. Mitterrand's statement provided further confirmation that France is prepared to compromise over creating a European force outside the Nato framework. London had been worried that last month's proposal for a Franco-German corps would duplicate Nato's military responsibilities. M. Mitterrand has now apparently dispelled that fear. He also said Nato was not a "holy alliance" and the Nato's new



Mitterrand: prepared for defence compromise

political role needed to be defined precisely.

Mr Bush had started the day with a breakfast meeting with John Major. After a lengthy session, he said that American troops would be staying in Europe. "We are going to have a sufficient force to take care of our obligations and our own national security interests. One of those fundamental security interests is a vigorous participation in Nato."

Mr Major, who played a key role in ensuring that the "primacy of Nato" was included in the new Nato document on strategy, published yesterday, said that no one in Europe wanted to damage the alliance.

Mr Major added: "The position in Europe is that Europeans feel they have to take a greater share of the overall burden. We all agree with that."

The summit communiqué to be published today says that at a time of "uncertainty" and "unpredictable challenge", Nato, including a significant presence of American forces in Europe, "retains its enduring value".

Cresson attacks heart of the French establishment

Edith Cresson has infuriated the French ruling class. Philip Jacobson writes, by ordering their beloved school out of Paris

EDITH Cresson's undiminished relish for the political hurly-burly was demonstrated again yesterday when she decided that the Parisian college that trains France's top civil servants should be transferred to Strasbourg.

The howls of protest from distinguished graduates of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (Ena) began immediately, and the prime minister may now expect a furious lobbying campaign in the highest levels of the governing classes to block the move.

As Mme Cresson well knows, the Ena network is immensely influential. Her three predecessors in office — Laurent Fabius, Jacques Chirac and Michel Rocard — were all graduates of this most prestigious of France's *grandes écoles*, as was Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president. Her own cabinet contains about ten more, and the majority of today's top-flight government administrators are also old boys of the college on the rue de l'Université in the heart of St-Germain-des-Près.

Although the decision to shift Ena is being presented as part of the government's long-standing plan to disperse public institutions to the provinces, Mme Cresson has already been accused of having it in for the college, founded by General de Gaulle in 1945 to mould an elite body of civil servants. "Quite grotesque..." fumed Raymond

Jaffrézou, whose Ena degree took him to a prized job in the government accounting office. For Philippe Reinhard, class of '76, the move could be attributed only to "a grudge or some sort of complex" on the part of Mme Cresson. "After all, she is only a business graduate from the young women's course at university," he declared in *Le Quotidien de Paris*, striking the authentically suspicious note which ensures that the average Enarque is heartily detested by ordinary mortals.

True, one did sense a certain twist of the knife in the way Ena's transplantation, and the proposed sale of its fine site in Paris to swell government coffers, was announced. "A very symbolic decision," declared Jack Lang (law, Paris), the government spokesman, noting mischievously that Mme Cresson did not shirk difficult choices. The move to Strasbourg, seat of the European Parliament, would provide the college with "an international vocation", he said.

Catherine Trautman, former socialist government minister and now the energetic mayor of Strasbourg, could hardly conceal her joy, hailing the projected arrival of Ena next year as "a very strong reinforcement of Strasbourg's European role", and a triumph for the decentralisation lobby striving to counter the domination of Paris.

From what one hears, President Mitterrand is himself no great admirer of the cult of Ena, which exercises immeasurably greater influence than any comparable Whitehall mafia in Britain. He took his own degree in law, at the University of Paris before the second world war.

"Everyone coming out of Ena writes dreadfully," he grumbled in a book published recently. "That place does not form, it deforms." Other politicians and captains of industry in France have also criticised the hermetic nature of a quintessentially Parisian caste that prizes academic qualifications over experience of life.

Naturally, this did not deter the association of Ena old boys from issuing an anguished statement in the sonorous language so beloved of French bureaucracy. "We must express keen anxiety about the very grave consequences of this decision as it will affect the future training of a superior class of executive managers for the nation."

For once, Mme Cresson had nothing to say. Or perhaps she is holding her fire until the right moment.

Prague's elite go clubbing

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

PRAGUE'S upwardly mobile have converted an ancient monastery into an exclusive night club for the new breed of millionaires who want to prove their money is clean.

The club has been set up by five men including a Czechoslovak rock star, a media mogul and a steel magnate, who want to distinguish themselves from the illegal branch of the new rich. Membership will be limited to 50 and foreigners may join.

Applicants must be recommended and vetted, and pay £1,000 to join and £600 per year. The proceeds will go towards running the converted monastery, with its modern offices, restaurants and non-stop night club, modelled on London's top spots.

With unemployment approaching ten per cent, hundreds of thousands of people are on the breadline. The level of wealth required to join the club is not that of Western millionaires — members need assets of one million crowns (£20,000) to be eligible. The important thing is to share expertise, members say. But the venture shows how social divisions are widening — and the death of the communist ideal of a classless society.

A record producer said: "This is an elite club. People here should be exceptional — personalities who will one day lead the Czech economy."

Demirel to start talks

Ankara — President Ozal yesterday met Suleyman Demirel, the leader of the centre-right True Path party who has sworn to topple him, and asked him to form Turkey's next government.

The president and prime minister-designate posed silent and stony-faced for photographers at the hill-top presidential Cankaya palace before starting talks on the new government. "The duty has been conferred," Mr Demirel said after an unexpectedly long meeting with Mr Ozal. "It is the nation which confers the duty," he added with a smile.

Mr Demirel, aged 67, whose party won 178 seats in the 450-seat parliament, but no clear majority in the parliamentary elections on October 20, was prime minister six times before being ousted by the military in 1980. His immediate plans were to meet other party leaders to try to construct a workable coalition. (Reuters)

Danube protest

Ruse — About 10,000 Bulgarian environmentalists blocked traffic on the Romanian-Bulgarian border to protest about pollution from a Romanian chlorine plant across the Danube. Protesters, using hundreds of cars and lorries in a two-mile line, closed the border at the Friendship bridge for 12 hours. (AP)

Coup warning

Moscow — Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the former Soviet foreign minister, has told *Novoye Vremya*, the weekly newspaper, that the American government warned him in June of an impending Kremlin coup and he informed President Gorbachev immediately. (Reuters)

Albania plea

Belgrade — Hundreds of Albanians have tried this week to force their way into the port of Durres and on to boats heading for Italy. They have been stopped by troops. Ylli Bufti, the prime minister, urged Albanians to stay and work for reforms. (AFP)

Border attack

Vilnius — Three armed men in cars attacked Lithuanian border guards with grenades when ordered to stop, according to Audrius Butkevicius, the Lithuanian defence minister. One guard was wounded. Mr Butkevicius described the incident as a "political provocation".

Passing the plate

Rome — The Vatican expects its 1992 budget deficit to be the same as last year's \$86 million (£48 million), a finance committee of cardinals said. Most of it would be raised by "Peter's Pence", an annual collection carried out for centuries in Roman Catholic churches for the Pope's personal use. (Reuters)

Greek strike

Athens — Greece's biggest unions, protesting over harsh austerity measures, staged a one-day strike that disrupted public services. Train and bus services were halted, while schools and most banks closed. Hospitals had only emergency staffing and electricity and telephone services were affected. (Reuters)

Impasse in Yugoslavia

Europe puts Serbia under pressure

AS THE bloody war rages on in Yugoslavia, Western peace-makers are concentrating on pressing Serbia to give in and sign the security plan devised by Lord Carrington. Today, the European Community will decide whether to impose sanctions on Belgrade while other follow-up measures of the diplomatic isolation of Serbia, a timetable for recognising Slovenia and Croatia — are being considered.

Yet the Carrington plan, hailed as a last chance for peace, is flawed. The view from Ljubljana and Zagreb is that the EC has boxed itself into a corner, for even if Serbia signed up, the plan would bring the Yugoslav republics no closer to peace. The idea is that Yugoslavia is transformed into six sovereign republics, recognised under international law, and bound in a loose economic association that would have international standing and would be known as Yugoslavia. The Serb minority in Croatia — 12 per cent of the 4.5 million population — would be given internationally binding security guarantees and a large degree of autonomy. Sanctions and a United Nations-backed oil embargo would be imposed on anybody who did not accept the plan.

The Carrington security plan has been hailed as a last chance for peace but it remains flawed, writes Roger Boyes, East European Editor

But there are cracks in the foundations of the Carrington plan. Slovenia, for example, believes that Lord Carrington is trying to turn back the clock, re-creating Yugoslavia, albeit on minimal terms. The European negotiators talk of the future loose association as a "custom union" but they seem to be hoping for much more: the restoration of an economic community that would lead, on the Brussels model, to closer political ties. Slovenia, which used to be the most prosperous republic, wants none of this and envisages at best a free trade zone. It does not want a single Yugoslav currency and is well



advanced in its plans for circulating its own Slovene money — much to the irritation of the community peacebrokers. Slovenia and, less noisily, Croatia are reluctant signatories.

The second objection to the Carrington plan is that too much has been given away to

Serbia to persuade Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, to sign up. The Serbs in Croatia will be given special privileges. But what of the Albanians in Kosovo and the Hungarians in Vojvodina? These two nominally autonomous provinces are under Serbian hegemony and under the Carrington plan will stay that way. Yet the Albanian discontent — they are battered down in a virtual police state — could explode into a Balkan war, dragging in Tirana, once the Serbian-Croatian front falls quiet.

The third flaw is that it is virtually unenforceable. How can sanctions be imposed on one Yugoslav republic and not another? If Mr Milosevic were to sign up, and the Serbian nationalists in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina refused to accept the decision, who should be punished and how? There is no real role for the Yugoslav army in the plan. And there is no way to stop Mr Milosevic signing the agreement — to head off sanctions — and then continuing the war, much as he has signed and flouted ceasefires in the past.

By withholding his signature, Mr Milosevic has given the European diplomats the impression that he is the solution. The key is to find a way in which Mr Milosevic can sell the Carrington plan to his home audience. But this

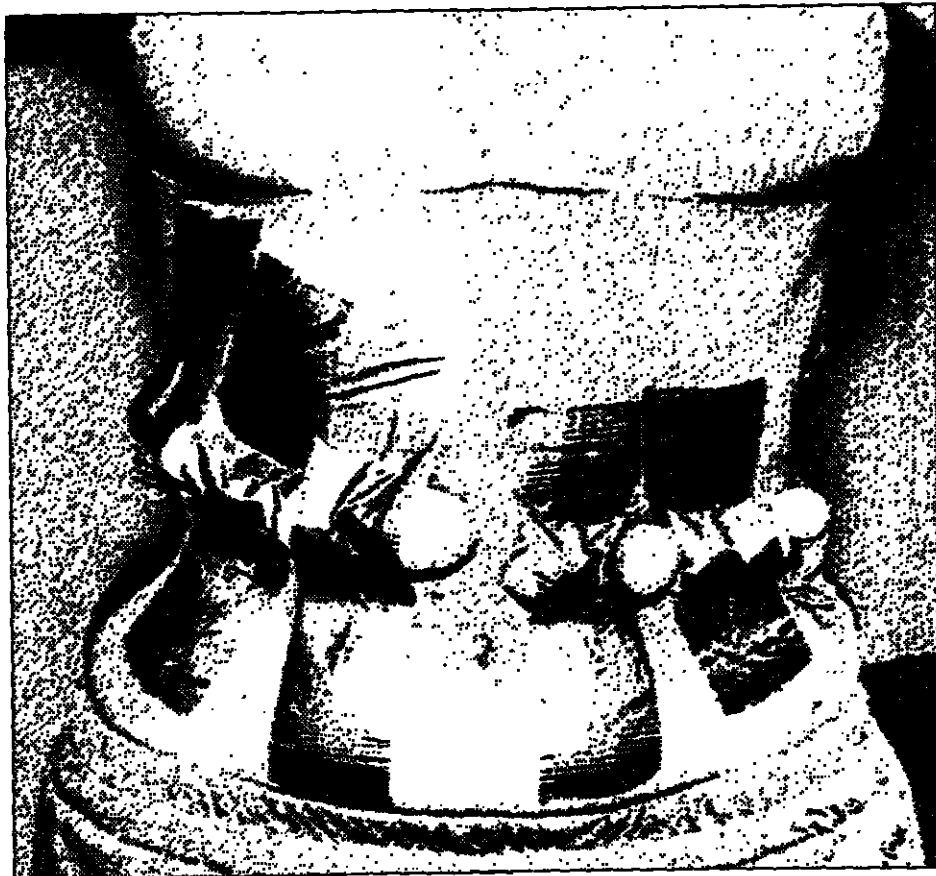
misses the point. Mr Milosevic is not the solution, but the problem.

The Carrington plan reverses the priorities. The Yugoslav army has to return to barracks. Since this cannot be achieved by force, and since an international peace-keeping contingent is still not on the agenda, this withdrawal must be negotiated.

The only carrot that can be offered to the army, is an international commitment to drafting new, mutually acceptable internal frontiers in Yugoslavia. For the Croats that will smack of appeasement but the military and political reality is that they will have to cede some territory in return for peace. The Carrington plan by freezing internal frontiers along present lines appears to rule out this possibility in advance. Nor does the adjustment of frontiers mean a surrender to the "greater Serbian" ambitions of Mr Milosevic.

The political calculation is that Mr Milosevic needs the war to distract Serbs from the chronic state of the local economy. Although Vuk Draskovic, his strongest opponent, is also a nationalist with no love for Croats, he has firmly renounced war as a means of changing frontiers.

● Bonn: Germany is threatening to provoke a problem inside the European Community if foreign ministers meeting in Rome today do not impose tough sanctions on Serbia, and consider Slovenia and Croatia's independence if the peace talks under Lord Carrington are suspended (Ian Murray writes).



Bulging waistline: Auckland customs officials stopped a New Zealand woman arriving from Los Angeles who had taped ten eggs, thought to be of the rare hooked beak parrot, round her waist. US authorities want them back before they hatch

Bonn poster drive targets far right

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A HUGE publicity campaign against xenophobia was launched throughout Germany yesterday. Posters on 35,000 billboards picture big show business and sporting names, including tennis star Steffi Graf, with the caption "I am a foreigner".

The idea is to rub home the point that even the most famous are aliens in most of the world. The campaign, for which 150 newspapers have

offered free advertising space, comes as neo-nazis are gathering for demonstrations tomorrow to mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the violent night of anti-Jewish hooliganism in 1938.

Rival demonstrations, to mark the second anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on the same date, are being co-ordinated by a new national "network peace co-operative" set up in Bonn to try to

counteract the wave of violence against foreigners. Police everywhere expect trouble, especially in Halle, the home town of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, where the far-right German National Party has organised a rally.

In Düsseldorf on Wednesday, more than 300 rowdy football fans attacked a gypsy encampment near the state parliament building.

Military units join rescue effort as Philippines toll rises to 6,500

Logging is blamed for scale of flood

By Abby Tan in Manila and Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE stench of death from rotting bodies hung over Leyte island and sharks nibbled at bodies offshore as the official toll of dead and missing rose to 6,500 in the wake of the tropical storm, Thelma, and the subsequent floods.

Bodies were being dug up from six layers of mud as the waters subsided. The problem was so immense that mass graves were being dug to bury the dead without identifying the bodies. Officials made radio appeals for embalming fluid.

Logging was yesterday being blamed for the scale of the disaster. Emilio Osmena, governor of the island of Cebu, visited Leyte, the worst hit island, on Wednesday and said: "Illegal logging - I think that was the main culprit".

President Aquino said that she would declare a state of

city is littered with dead bodies and more are being found.

"We have never seen this kind of loss of human lives before," Renato de Villa, the defence secretary, said in the capital of Tacloban when he arrived to direct relief efforts. Imelda Marcos, the former first lady who returned from exile on Monday, flew to Tacloban, her home town, yesterday. She was mobbed by 2,000 supporters.

Northern Leyte was isolated because roads and bridges were destroyed by the floods and as residents grouped in shock, recriminations over who was to blame started.

Leopoldo Feilla, Leyte's governor, said that logging had contributed to the disaster. He said that there was no watershed surrounding Ormoc as all the trees had been felled.

Environmentalists have no doubt that logging can intensify the impact of storms, though it is not necessarily the removal of the trees that does the greatest damage. Trees offer less protection to soil than low shrubs growing beneath them. The worst damage is done by bulldozers, used to drag the felled trees, which leave soil bare of scrub and create tracks down which the storm water pours. Mudslides then block dams, destroying their ability to prevent floods.

In 1988, after hundreds died in mudslides in Thailand, all logging was banned. The problem is not limited to the Third World; intensive developments of ski resorts in the Alps have increased soil erosion there, too.

Some scientists have also linked the regular flooding in Bangladesh with deforestation in the Himalayas, but the evidence is less clear-cut. According to Jack Ives, a professor of geography at the University of California at Davis, the amount of forest cover that has been lost in Nepal has been exaggerated, and the terrace farming that often replaces the trees retains the soil more effectively.



Waters of death: residents of Ormoc carrying their belongings and a coffin across a river on Leyte island yesterday

Imelda steps back into the spotlight

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IMELDA Marcos yesterday accused the Philippine government of putting her life at risk by deporting her 16 American bodyguards. She also toured Manila, stopping at one of the world's worst slums, and travelled to Olot, where she was born 62 years ago. There she was refused entry to the seaside retreat where she had once entertained visiting royalty.

President Aquino's government has sequestered the sprawling estate on Leyte island and ordered guards to keep everyone out. "My grandfathers have owned this place for more than 100 years... Why are they not allowing me in?" Mrs Marcos asked, on the verge of tears after beating a steel gate with her palm.

Earlier, at a family museum near by, Mrs Marcos had fallen to her knees and sobbed uncontrollably before a marble crypt containing the re-



Imelda Marcos: hidden wealth is "in her heart" billion dollars. A conviction on the tax charges alone could in theory mean a jail sentence of more than 100 years. Mrs Marcos denies her family amassed wealth illegally. "The hidden wealth of Marcos and Mrs Marcos is in their hearts," she said in an interview on Manila television.

In scenes typical of the near-hysteria her return has provoked among Marcos loyalists, weeping women threw themselves into her arms and used her black handkerchiefs to wipe away their tears. She was mobbed everywhere she went amid the now standard deafening cries of "Ma'am is back" and "First Lady". In three days, the crowds have re-established her as a major player in Philippine politics.

Mrs Marcos returned home with a group of former US Secret Service men and ex-FBI agents. They were provided, her lawyer says, by a firm headed by Charles Vance, an ex-son-in-law of Gerald Ford, the former US president. She said she did not know what to do now for protection as the bodyguards were paid by American friends. She claims to be penniless and living on "international welfare" provided by friends.

Shamir sets up peace team

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday consolidated his control over the country's foreign policy when he appointed Benjamin Netanyahu to head a special team within his office to oversee the peace process.

The move, intended to end the public animosity between David Levy, the foreign minister, and Mr Netanyahu, his former deputy, will relegate the foreign ministry to a junior role in future negotiations. It will establish the equivalent of the White House's National Security Council in the prime minister's office.

Mr Netanyahu said: "I have been asked by the prime minister to join his office and to work directly with him, especially along the negotiations for the peace process." He will co-ordinate the running of the negotiations between the prime minister's office, the ministry of foreign affairs and the ministry of defence.

Israeli officials yesterday welcomed the move, which they said would end the embarrassing rivalry between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Levy, who resented his deputy's prominent role in Madrid as Israel's number two and the country's chief spokesman. Mr Levy, who has not been on speaking terms with Mr Netanyahu for some months, highlighted the differences between the men in an interview on Wednesday night when he said: "There are two foreign ministers. There is a minister responsible to the government, Knesset and people, and there is a deputy minister who must abide by the rules from the point of view of authority. When matters are being conducted in another direction altogether, and when this reaches repeated clashes, steps have to be taken so that vital and important issues are not harmed."

While Mr Levy is the undisputed head of the foreign ministry now, it is not clear how badly his political standing in the ruling Likud party and the country has suffered from the duel with his deputy and, by extension, the prime minister.

Colony to head off refugee protest

Hong Kong - The first Vietnamese boat people to be deported from Hong Kong in almost two years will begin their two-day journey back to Vietnam today in what officials hope will start the return of thousands of people from crowded detention camps (Jonathan Braude writes).

In full view of the world's television cameras, 39 men, women and children will be taken off a remote island and put on a ferry to the airport, where they will be held overnight before boarding a chartered transport plane for their flight tomorrow. There will be tight security to stave off any violent protest.

Although some security officials fear that the boat people may stage a protest for the cameras, it is hoped that force will not be necessary, as the number of deportees dwindles and the remaining states on the aircraft are filled with volunteers.

General strike

Caracas - A 12-hour general strike called to protest against a series of increases in petrol prices closed most factories, offices, shops, banks and schools and paralysed public transport in the Venezuelan capital. The city was calm but tense as the strike began, emptying usually crowded streets of traffic and people. (AFP)

Peking talks

Peking - China is ready to exchange views on human rights when James Baker, the US Secretary of State, visits the country next week, a foreign ministry spokesman said. He brushed aside a question about what concessions Peking would make on the subject. (Reuters)

Loans enquiry

Islamabad - Mian Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister, has set up a judicial commission to investigate allegations that he acquired unsecured loans from state-owned institutions. The allegations were made by the Pakistan People's Party and members of the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Cabinet named

Lusaka - President Chiluba, elected last week, has unveiled his cabinet and pledged to rebuild Zambia's shattered economy. The finance portfolio has gone to a businessman, Emmanuel Kasonde. Foreign affairs went to Vernon Mwaanga, a former diplomat and minister. (Reuters)

Peru reshuffle

Lima - President Fujimori has named Alfonso de los Heros, previously labour minister, as the new Peruvian prime minister to replace Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, who resigned. Blacker Miller, an economist, has become foreign minister, a post previously held by the prime minister. (Reuters)

Mercurial ice

Palo Alto, California - Mercury, the planet closest to the sun, may have ice on one pole, scientists said, presenting findings from radar photos. Duane Muhleman, a professor at the California Institute of Technology, said the general reaction among colleagues was "Oh, my God, that can't be ice, can it?" (AFP)

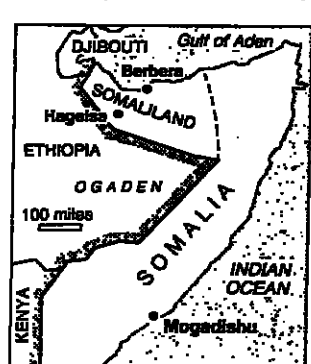
Charity urges famine aid

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of thousands of Ethiopians could be facing hunger and starvation again soon unless urgent measures are taken to feed refugees in the Horn of Africa.

Up to a quarter of a million refugees have flooded into the Ogaden region from Somalia and Somaliland since the end of the fighting in Ethiopia and because of increased instability in Somalia, according to the Save the Children Fund. The new arrivals have added 30 per cent to the population. Villagers are doing their best to feed and accommodate the destitute people but cannot cope with the scale of the problem. The charity said: "An official relief effort must be joined to the unofficial one."

Throughout the region, one of the most remote in a very inaccessible area, up to 2.5m nomadic people depend on a fragile system of trading to sustain themselves. Years of



drought mean there is a shortage of corn. There is now a danger that the people will have to start eating what animals they have to stay alive, thus destroying the economic base.

Rather than simply fly in food for distribution to the threatened population, the fund will use the novel approach of feeding grain into the market. "We have an opportunity to use food aid

not as a gift but through the market and let people choose to buy it if they want. That way we can solve a crisis, head off a crisis and prevent a crisis next year by preserving the region's economic resources," Mark Bowden, Save the Children's area director for Africa, told a press conference yesterday.

The fund, which has surveyed the area by helicopter, estimates that the region will need 50,000 tons of grain, although only a fraction of that initially.

Southern rivals play remorse card

Peter Stothard reports from New Orleans on the last leg of the race to become governor of Louisiana

WHEN the tall, blond, David Duke entered the debating chamber, he looked askance at the wooden dais upon which his opponent was due to stand. "I want a platform too," Mr Duke said. "He's going to look taller than me."

"That's what's wrong with your campaign," replied Edwin Edwards, his shorter, silver-haired rival in next week's Louisiana gubernatorial race. "You don't have a platform."

"I do, and it's made of ideas not wood," said Mr Duke. "That's why you can't stand on it." Mr Edwards quipped, getting in the last word and the applause of watching senators, reporters and television technicians.

Louisianians appreciate old-style political repartee. Except for occasional short-lived flirtations with reform, they have been happy to accept governors who are gamblers, philanderers and racists - as long as they are also entertaining. However, a "Stop Duke" campaign is in full swing.

Mr Duke, whose previous

political achievements include converting the Ku Klux Klan from black-baiting to anti-Semitism, won 37 per cent of last month's primary vote. He is now attracting some of the moderate supporters of Buddy Roemer, the Republican whom he defeated and President Bush's favourite for the job. In a national atmosphere of opposition to established politicians, a Duke victory on November 16 is a real possibility.

Both candidates are spending much of their final days of campaigning in remorse for past excesses. Mr Duke says he has found God since the days that he denied the occurrence of the Holocaust and celebrated Hitler's birthday. Mr Edwards, whose two past governorships were marred by sexual licence and corruption, has promised to take less care of his friends if he is elected this time.

Mr Edwards, who is expected to win most of the state's 27 per cent black vote, needs at least 35 per cent of the white vote if he is to win. He has promised to maintain many policies of Governor Roemer, including those on government ethics and the environment, and he has pledged a new airport for New Orleans and no new taxes.

The Edwards lobby, which includes the main newspapers, Republican and Democrat fund-raisers and the business community, have painted a grim picture of an isolated Louisiana, stripped of its lucrative convention business, under a Duke governorship. Mr Bush called Mr Duke "an insincere charlatan" on Wednesday.

Stephen Ambrose, the influential New Orleans historian and Eisenhower biographer, wrote this week that,

after 20 years teaching in the state, he would leave if Mr Duke were elected. "I would not be alone," he said.

Mr Duke is trying to gain advantage from the solidarity of the establishment against him. When challenged in televised debate about the flight of convention business, he rallied against the outside special business interests which were trying to influence Louisiana voters.

He revels in confusing his audience. On Wednesday, the former seller of Nazi propaganda criticised black affirmative action programmes as being too like the racial quota policies of Nazi Germany. The heart of the Duke appeal is its assault on welfare waste and on discrimination against the white working class.

According to the latest polls, Mr Duke's bandwagon has been stopped and Mr Edwards has a 12-point lead. But pundits are wary of believing the promises of either the politicians or those who are polled.

Leading article, page 17

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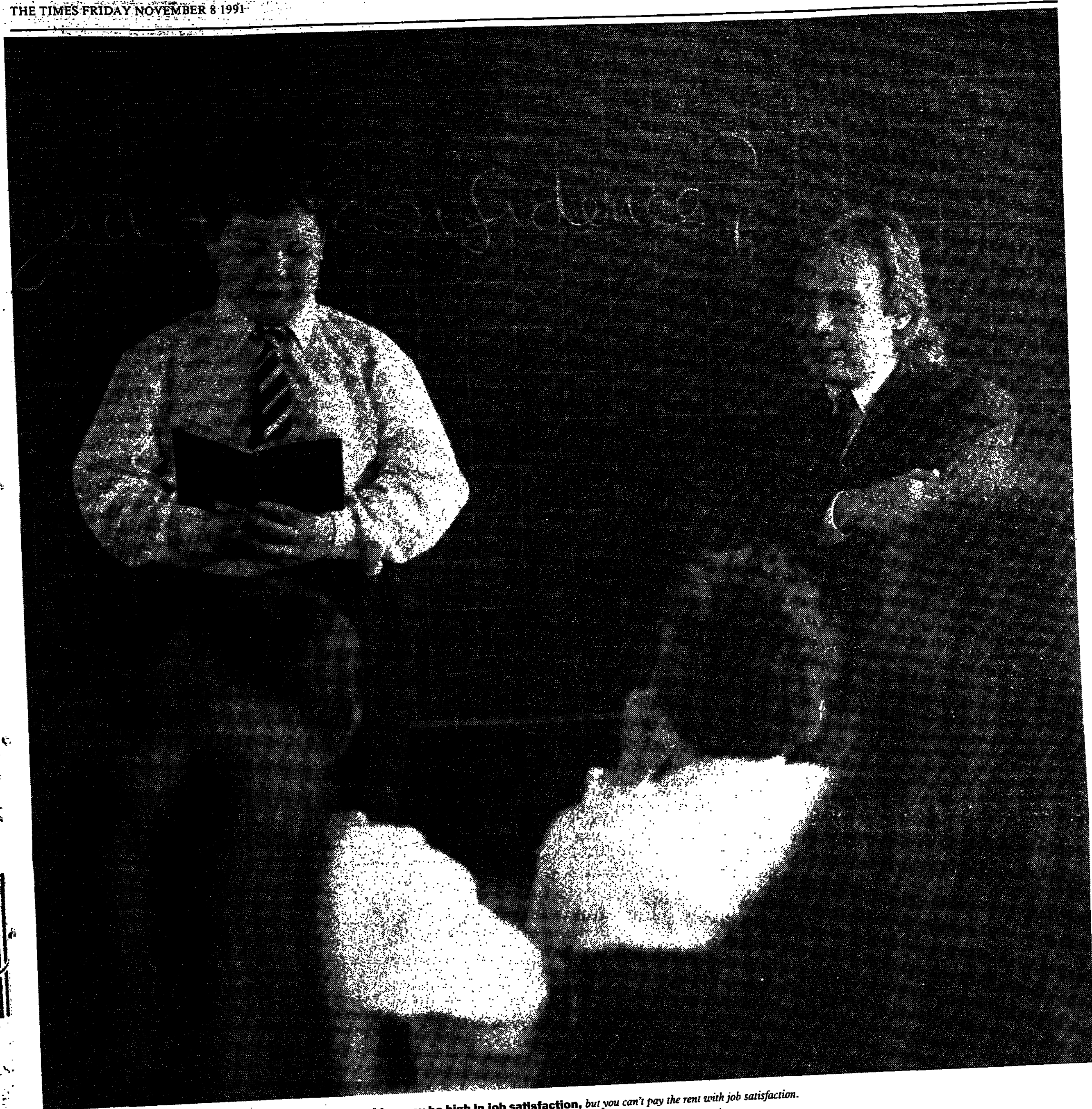
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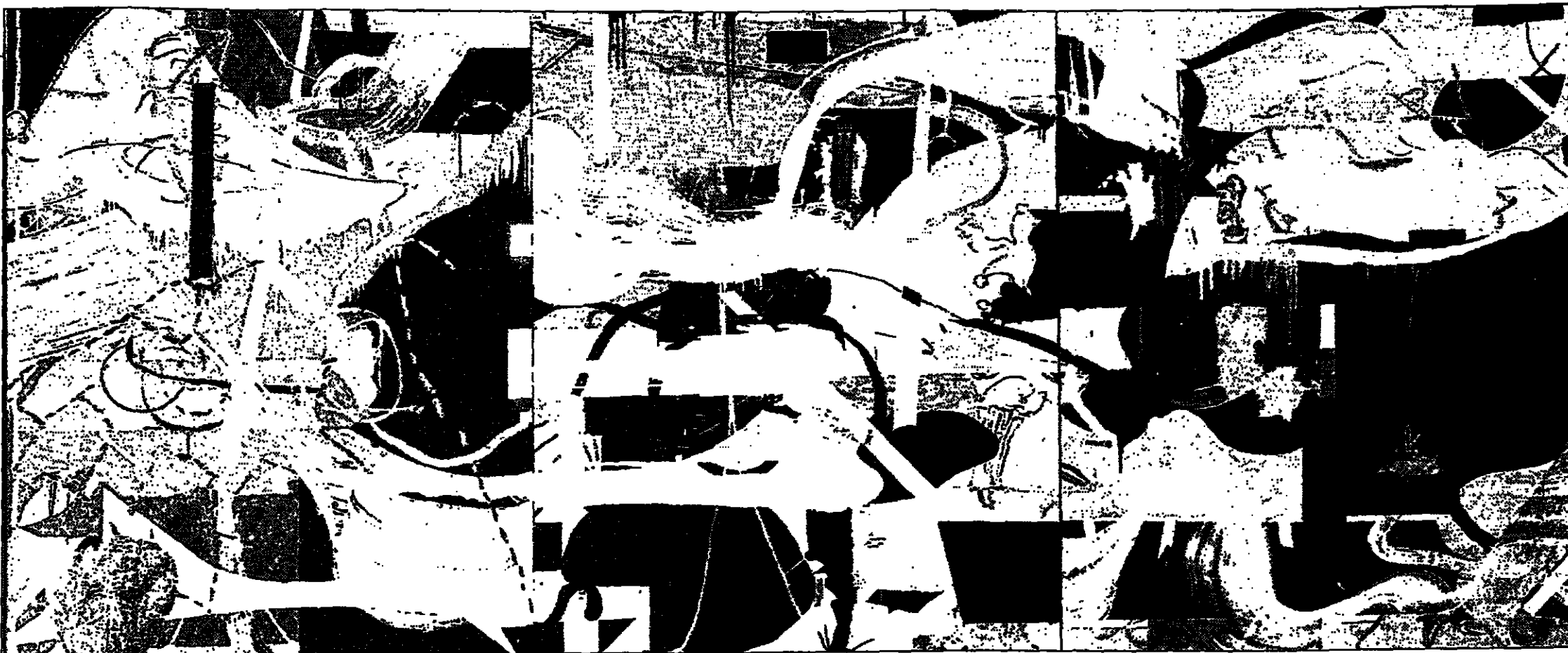
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THE TURNER PRIZE

Young, gifted and rising too fast?

Feisty contender: *Untitled (red, yellow and blue triptych)*, an oil painting by Fiona Rae, one of the shortlisted artists for the Turner Prize 1991. It is among the works now on show at the Tate Gallery in London

After taking a sabbatical, when everyone imagined it had vanished for ever, the Turner Prize is back. The prize has a new upstart, a new agelimit of 50. But the jury, presumptuously, has interpreted this rule as a charter for the under-30s. Three of the four short-listed names — Ian Davenport, Fiona Rae and Rachel Whiteread — left college in recent years. Anish Kapoor belongs to an older generation, but is no more than 37.

I have always felt uneasy about the strategy of short-listing for the Turner Prize. Unlike most literary awards, which focus on specific books published during the year, the Turner was far more generalised. The initial definition, "the greatest contribution to art in Britain", seemed so wide and grandiose that it was later modified to an "outstanding contribution". But the change did little to ease the business of choosing. When I served on the Turner jury in 1988, we dispensed with a short-list and simply announced Tony Cragg as the winner. At least, we all felt artists were no longer being played off against each other.

This year, however, the perennial human love of a public tussle

has triumphed again. Bets are duly placed, and the hapless Kapoor finds himself cast in the role of the Established Name who might well be humiliated by a Bright Young Thing armed with only a fraction of his sustained output over the past decade. The short-list's trendiness amounts to a massive snub for the whole notion of working steadily towards well-earned maturity in middle age. Since Kapoor gives every sign of ripening into just such a desirable state, he deserves to win this time around.

Channel 4's involvement does at least guarantee that the four artists will receive prime-time exposure. An hour-long programme about their work has already been broadcast, and the announcement ceremony will be transmitted live on November 26. But how well does the Tate itself present the artists, bearing in mind that the director, Nicholas Serota, wants to "promote the quality and depth of their work to audiences not necessarily familiar with the twists and turns of contemporary art"?

Clear efforts have been made this year to improve on the risible inadequacy of previous short-list exhibitions. Rather than consigning the artists to the echoing immensity of the Duveen Galleries, the Tate has now devoted

Are the finalists for this year's biggest fine art prize the best of the younger British?

Former juror Richard Cork has some doubts

three rooms to a clearly laid-out Turner Prize show. A video and information panels about the contestants preface the work, helping to introduce them to a wide public. But the exhibition proper shows no hesitation in buffeting the viewer with by far the most turbulent of the four candidates.

At 28, Fiona Rae is emerging as the feistiest painter of her generation. The three pictures she displays here, all executed since her show at Waddington Galleries in the summer, are more combative than ever. She indulges in an extraordinary diversity of mark-making. The canvas becomes a battleground where everything, from steady black squares to the most convulsive splashes imaginable, wage open war with each other. Fat strokes of pigment are dragged across the surface, colliding with the thinnest of elegant, straggling lines. Forms are asserted only to be teased or confounded by an invading force.

In the smallest painting, a spiky black presence at the top has been

the earliest of her exhibits, the space surrounding an ordinary domestic bath is transformed into solid, four-square blocks of plaster. They encase the bath-shaped void. This bleached, monumental slab stirs memories of sarcophagi.

In her most recent sculpture, though, Whiteread presents a less haunted vision of the context inhabited by domestic objects. Exploring the spaces beneath beds, she casts them in a combination of rubber and high-density foam. Hard to the touch, one of them is supple enough to curve up from the floor as if in levitation. The other, in a lazy arc against a wall, has an unexpectedly resplendent aura.

Ian Davenport, at 25 the youngest short-listed artist, shows no sign of youthful uncertainty. His paintings, dominated by poured or dripped household paints and varnishes, are immaculate in execution. The smallest of his three untitled works, nicknamed *Drab*, sets up a conflict between vertical and horizontal paint-streams. But the other paintings are far more suave and fluent. The taller of the two is all-over black, with a row of columnar streaks plummeting from puddles ranged along the top. Although elusive to the eye, they catch the

light and conjure vestigial references to classical architecture.

The wider painting hanging opposite, by contrast, sends white and pale brown paint coursing downwards. They seem to have been blown by the wind, but the prevailing neatness counters any urge to read nature references into this assured performance.

The precocious Davenport is already in danger of lapsing into prolific sickness, whereas Kapoor restricts himself to a single object. His sandstone carving is reminiscent of an urn, and its pale, dust-coloured surface carries striations like the surface of the moon. On one side, however, this wholeness is disrupted by a damaged area of exposed stone. With gouges running through it, this raw, rough cavity suggests that a meteorite has smashed into the planet.

Closer examination discloses that the entire area is squared up with faint lines, belying the apparently accidental cause. The deep blue hollow at the sculpture's apex is even more confounding. It undermines the solidity of the exterior and points, like the rest of Kapoor's work, towards the enigma at the heart of existence.

● The Turner Prize 1991 exhibition continues at the Tate (071-821 1313) until December 8.

BRIEFING

Travel is off

IRELAND's Field Day theatre company has called off a London season, at the Royal Court next month, of Tom Kilroy's *The Madame MacAdam Travelling Theatre*. It opened to poor reviews in September in Londonderry. *Death and the Maiden*, the Court's present show, extends its run to December 14.

Going down

FOR the first time, the D'Oyly Carte opera company is to break away from Gilbert and Sullivan. The company, in collaboration with Opera North, is to stage Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*. First, Opera North will perform the production, directed by Martin Duncan, in 1992, then D'Oyly Carte will tour it in 1993.

Ray Brown, D'Oyly Carte's general manager, said: "Our founder, Richard D'Oyly Carte, dreamed of creating a national light opera company, and more than a century later we may be on the brink of realising that dream. Works other than those by Gilbert and Sullivan have been discussed over many years, but never brought to fruition. It has been the

Jacques Offenbach: *Orpheus on the way*

support of the Arts Council, and the new spirit in the company since our move to Birmingham this year, which has made it possible." The Arts Council has pledged £30,000 in project funding, and more than twice that is being committed by the sponsor, British Midland Airways.

Last chance...

ANGLO-Scotch rockers Big Country have belatedly discovered their R'n'B roots on the current album, *No Place Like Home*, a brave departure from the galloping rhythms and skirling guitar sounds of yore. But old favourites such as "Chance" and "Fields of Fire" are not overlooked in a friendly show that never fails to prompt a massed audience bounce-along on the floor. Their British tour ends with dates at University of East Anglia at Norwich (0603 505401) tomorrow and at Leicester Polytechnic (0533 555576) on Sunday.

ARTS REVIEWS

David Sinclair on Bryan Adams
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Lepage: "Theatre has to be a sensuous experience that communicates ideas"

THEATRE

Travelling salesman of ideas

The Canadian director Robert Lepage is in London with his latest work.

He talked to Lauris Morgan Griffiths

Nine tons of sand, a car-park attendant's booth and a wooden lamp-post are all the props that theatre director Robert Lepage needs to create the intricate theatrical world of *The Dragons' Trilogy*, which follows the twists and turns of a friendship between two Canadian women across seven decades of Canadian history.

This metaphysical theatrical odyssey through time, space and culture is the responsibility of the French Canadian Lepage and the theatre group Théâtre Repère. At 33, Lepage is an acknowledged theatrical force, creating theatre that communicates in North America, Europe, Australia and Japan.

In Lepage's plays there is room for cultural and geographical divides. Oprah Winfrey, glamo, east meets west, Yin and Yang, Chopin, Cocoteau, birth, death, AIDS and the Big Bang theory. Many of these themes inhabit *The Dragons' Trilogy*, which opens in London on Sunday. The play begins in Quebec in 1910 and ends (six hours later) in present day Vancouver.

Lepage aims to rediscover the sense of fun in a play. "Theatre has to be a sensuous experience: you have to talk to the senses," he says. "Not only the erotic senses, the eyes, the smell, the feelings, it has to communicate ideas, themes and emotions."

He works instinctively rather than intellectually, from ideas contributed by the company. For *Dragons' Trilogy* the starting point was a parking lot in Quebec's Chinatown. To one actor it represented an archaeological dig; to another it represented footprints in the sand, imprints left by generations.

Lepage's currency is ideas, images and metaphors. With British theatre having such a strong, text-based tradition, Lepage's physical and metaphorical tools can have a shattering impact: a burning wheelchair denotes an aeroplane crash, ice skaters take on a smouldering military menace as they plough through a pile of shoes, disrupting peace time. He also borrows from other media, using cinematic techniques to skew perspective: a bird's eye view of a town, lights twinkling on the stage, with an actor spread-eagled as an aircraft above.

He rejects the notion that he is more imaginative than most; he believes he has retained the child in himself. As a child he was always more inventive with the boxes than the toys that they contained: a box can be a house, a tree — or

eliminated from suspicion by submitting to a lie detector. In *Tectonic Plates* (being filmed for Channel 4) he explored the feminine aspect of his nature.

In *Dragons' Trilogy*, Lepage's personal dragon is his religion. Raised as a Roman Catholic, he had always been attracted to atheism. Through Zen philosophy he came to understand life with other patterns and thoughts. "The *Dragons' Trilogy* informed me of another spirituality without a God, without a religion, without a life after death."

● *The Dragons' Trilogy* opens at Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (081-748 3354) on Sunday, 4pm

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BBC 2 controller, Rushdie campaigner, Alan Yentob lost a battle with the Foreign Office this week. Kate Muir met him

Risk taker, troublemaker

In days of old, when the BBC was the starched tablecloth on which the crockery of the establishment rested, Alan Yentob would never have got away with it. Now the controller of BBC 2 is able to be a political with a small p as much as he likes, about Culture with a big C. Thus on Monday, he will be one of those still quietly marking Salman Rushdie's 1,000 days under threat of death, following the Foreign Office's attempt to ban any louder protest.

As a leading member of the Salman Rushdie Campaign, along with Melvyn Bragg, Bernardo Bertolucci, Richard Rodgers and so on, he will be taking part in the public reading of letters of support for the author with a \$2 million (£1.1 million) Islamic price on his head, instead of the planned 24-hour vigil for him, with all the attendant publicity. The Foreign Office feared the vigil would be seen as Government-supported and would affect the chances of release for Terry Waite.

Mr Yentob considers the Foreign Office linkage of Rushdie with Waite was most ill-judged. "In my view, if they make that association, they have to see Salman as the last hostage, and they should have a similar obligation to him." He feels the Government has almost ignored Rushdie, who will have been in "captivity" for three years next February, and points out that the Iranian *fatwa* has tentacles which spread out to take the lives of Japanese translators and Italian publishers; a worldwide gag.

Freedom of speech is one of Mr Yentob's major preoccupations, personally and professionally, and at the BBC it causes him to have occasional run-ins with the Tory back-bench. He likes to push programming to the edge. This month's troublemakers should include the dramatisation of the explosive-packed O2 trial, which ended in the banning of the radical 1960s magazine, and *Saturday Night Out*, a whole evening of programmes about homosexuality, to mark the 21st anniversary of the gay liberation movement. "There is a lobby of people who don't think the BBC should cover these issues, but they should make their judgments after they've seen the programmes and not before. These films are scheduled during adult viewing times, and they are about groups of people which the

BBC has an obligation to represent." He points to the acclaim for the dramatisation of the Jeanette Winterson novel *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*: "It was about repression, and sexuality which you might call lesbianism, but actually it was about a love affair between two young girls, and people were so engaged by the first episode that they didn't look at it in those terms at all."

When Lord Rees-Mogg of the new Broadcasting Standards Council complains about permissiveness and television being controlled by children of the 1960s, it is the likes of that and Mr Yentob he is referring to. But his comments are not taken too seriously. "There's a sort of unavoidable redundancy about the Broadcasting Standards Council," says Mr

If there is not that aspiration to do something different, there wouldn't be much point in the BBC

Yentob, black-eyed, like a bird about to stab with its beak. "The BBC is accused of being a mammoth bureaucracy but in fact all those guidelines in the serious area of our responsibility to the public and balance are very clear." He has found the BBC no more stringent than the BBC itself, only rarely does it complain of something not already questioned by the corporation.

As for political bias, and the recent row over NHS coverage, most BBC executives know they cannot win. "When John Birt arrived a few years ago, the BBC was accused of being cravenly in support of the Government, and now we are, of course, cravenly left wing." There was one edition of the *Nine O'Clock News* which the BBC has admitted was intemperate, but he believes these decisions were made by programme-makers, under great pressure of time. Apparatchiks in grey suits were not imposing politics from above.

Mr Yentob's politics are Reith gone radical. He takes public

service broadcasting to mean serving a general public made up of all sorts of interesting minorities. In his four years as controller, he has nabbed some of the mantle of Channel 4, and given BBC 2 an identity which goes beyond snooker, "in *M*A*S*H*. Unlike his neighbour, Jonathan Powell at BBC1, Mr Yentob can never put a foot wrong. If his programmes get high ratings, they are successful, and if they get low ratings, they are high art.

Both controllers are 44, arrived on the same day, and were immediately bracketed as the BBC's New Men. They also became new fathers in tandem, and drop baby talk the way they used to drop names. Showing no signs of unwillingness to be photographed with seven-month-old Jakob, a co-production with programme-maker Philippa Walker, Mr Yentob says, "I don't find it an obligation at all spending time with my son. He's very important. I'd rather have a meeting with him than a lot of other people. There's just much less time left in the day to do everything else."

These two self-consciously modern men have brought Armani to the BBC's Moss Bros. They are able to cope with the Thatcherite legacy of concepts such as "streamlining", "producer choice", and "value for money", which would have terrified the controllers in the past. This week, the corporation announced plans to economise by cutting down camera crews and studios, and moving programmes to the regions, which will result in some 3,000 redundancies by April 1993. Mr Powell and Mr Yentob talked smoothly about being more efficient to cope with the move to 25 per cent independent production, and ensuring "more money gets on screen".

Although Mr Yentob is willing to perform, indeed promote, radical surgery on the corporation, he is in fact BBC born and bred. Although his compact energy belies the fact, he has never worked in the outside world. For 23 years since he left Leeds University, he has been with Auntie, first in radio, then in charge of the documentary programme *Arena*, and latterly as head of arts and music. He has survived the long haul without becoming institutionalised because he has always felt something of an outsider. "I have never been particularly club-



Alan Yentob with his son Jakob: "He's very important. I'd rather have a meeting with him than a lot of other people."

bable." His family were Iraqi Jews and settled in Manchester, he fitted in by ignoring some parts of the BBC, and embracing the positive aspects he liked.

"When I started in television, it was a vocation. I decided between religion, medicine, the law, or the BBC. Now it's turned from a vocation to an industry." He tucks into a whisky sour in the Langham Hilton Hotel, the building opposite Broadcasting House which used to be part of the BBC. He remembers it had a peculiar staff club in the base-

ment, which used to be filled with eccentrics.

Now eccentrics are being replaced by economics, and that means controllers have to be very clear about their editorial priorities, because there is no room for mistakes. No longer can Mr Yentob produce a film, unconscious of cost. How does he deal with balancing the books?

"My family were in business so I don't find it at all difficult. My father and uncle were rather innovative textile manufacturers in Manchester. They were com-

mitted, really passionate about textiles, but they also made money in Dents Gloves. I know about business. It's just that I prefer showbusiness."

Mr Yentob is surprisingly optimistic about the future of his type of showbusiness, and broadcasting in general. There are signs of hope in the slight fudging of the distribution of the ITV franchises, which resulted in some maintenance of quality, and the strength of a leaner, fitter BBC. He expects broadcasting in the 1990s to be more pragmatic, but at the same

time policymakers will become less shrill about what is and is not permissible.

Dramas like *Oranges*, and this month's *Children of the North*, about Northern Ireland, will lead the way, says Mr Yentob, now fired with near-religious fervour. "You have to take serious pieces of drama which deal with adult issues. You have to take chances. If there is not that aspiration, that desire to take risks, to do something different, then there wouldn't be much point in the BBC, frankly."

Bridging the gulf of peace

When a soldier came back from the war, he returned to a new wife

While combatants in the Gulf war survived on a heady diet of adrenalin, their wives existed in a vacuum of uncertainty and fear. Lieutenant Colonel Philip Scott describes it as the ultimate experience of a soldier. His wife, Diana, says it was the worst three months of her life.

For Mrs Scott, whose husband is commanding officer of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, there was the additional worry of knowing he was responsible for the lives of the 750 men under his command. The regiment specialises in reconnaissance, so the men would be frequently operating behind enemy lines. In the event, Colonel Scott's regiment suffered the most British fatalities due to enemy action: two men were killed.

The wives' ordeal is highlighted in *Home Fires*, a Channel 4 documentary, to be



His excitement, her fear: Diana and Philip Scott learnt different lessons from the Gulf war

shown on Monday at 9pm. In the documentary, filmed during the war, the Scotts exhibit the stiff upper lip expected of their rank, as demonstrated by the colonel in a Valentine's day video sent back from the Gulf. "Hello, ladies. It's the boss here," he said breezily. "Don't worry about the boys, they're doing the business for you. And a quick word for my

own wife, Diana: miss you lots and love you lots."

They are both 44, and have two children - Kate, aged 26, who lives away from home and James, aged 16, at boarding school. Colonel Scott went straight into the army from public school. Mrs Scott, the daughter of a soldier, has worked as a librarian and a secretary, has organised directors' lunches, and taught English to Japanese businessmen. "Army wives do all sorts of things," she says. "If you want to work, you have to be versatile."

The weeks leading up to her husband's departure for the Gulf were tense. "One had to discuss unpleasant things like wills and life insurance."

Colonel Scott left on Boxing day, after a Christmas of enforced jolliness. Saying goodbye was a mammoth exercise in self-control. "Suddenly, the whole enormity of it came home," he says.

In her role as the commanding officer's wife, Mrs Scott went daily to the camp's family centre, organising coffee mornings, shopping trips, pub games, bingo evenings. "It was terribly important to try and keep the girls socially active," she says.

At home, she wrote letters to her husband, read the newspapers, or just sat and thought. "Sundays were terrible because there was no mail. The worst time was during the land battle, because there was a news

blackout and we hadn't a clue what was going on."

Colonel Scott returned three weeks after the ceasefire. She had expected him to look thin, pale and exhausted but, in common with most of the men, he was tanned, fit and overweight. She, meanwhile, had lost 12 pounds.

In the early days of their reunion Mrs Scott suffered dramatic mood swings. "I'd been on my own in the house for three months, and having another person there was an awful lot of one wanted to talk about, but didn't know where to start."

"I think everybody changed. Certainly the younger wives in the regiment found they had become more self-sufficient, and I think that might have been a little bit of a shock to their husbands."

Her husband seems not to have noticed. "She was, perhaps, a little bit more emotional, but that has to be expected. Otherwise she was the same girl."

"I don't think the men will have understood what we went through," Mrs Scott says. "And I don't think any of the wives understood what the men went through. But I'm not sure how much that matters. I think what matters more is being understanding with one another, even if you don't understand."

SALLY BROMPTON

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A question of life or death

Polly Toynbee on why patients should be told which surgeons get best results

Florence Nightingale used to count her patients as they left hospital, listing them as "relieved", "unrelieved" or "dead". But today hospitals know far less than that about the outcome of their treatments. Under the patient's charter our first right is "to be given detailed information on local health services, including quality standards and maximum waiting times". All hospitals will have to publish waiting list times, but what will they publish about their "quality standards"? Will they tell us their mortality rates, surgeon by surgeon for the operations on offer? Will they tell us their cross-infection rate (how many go in with one complaint and come out with another)? Will they tell us how many patients are cured, six months or a year after an operation? The answer is no, they won't.

This is not because the government wants to fudge the truth. The reason is far more alarming: no one knows how good a hospital is, because no information is collected. The patient has only anecdotal evidence to go on. The patient's GP is almost as ignorant. So is the health authority which buys the operation on the patient's behalf. So is the hospital employing the surgeon, and so indeed is the surgeon, who has no idea how his performance compares to others.

A government-funded central study monitors deaths during and immediately after operations, but researchers are only allowed access to the information because the names of the surgeons and hospitals remain confidential (so confidential that the records are shredded as soon as the anonymous information has been fed into the computer). The fear is that disclosure might reveal the surgeons and hospitals with the highest death rates.

Little or nothing is known about whether patients are "relieved" or "unrelieved" by their hospital treatment. Very few surgeons collate their results. They can generally find out what has happened to a patient by reading the notes from a post-operative check-up, but unless they have some special research project, they don't put the statistics together. They don't know as a matter of course the outcomes of their own treatments, and may spend years performing operations that are useless or even harmful.

The new NHS system requires every surgeon to carry out a "medical audit" with colleagues. This was one of the few clauses opposed by the British Medical Association, perhaps because the doctors themselves were left to interpret the phrase. A typical example is a consultant urologist in Birmingham, who audits his results by sitting down once a week with a fellow specialist to discuss any deaths or complications. No one else is present at the meeting, statistics are not collated, and he would not be willing to let hospital managers know the re-

sults. One of the advantages of trust hospitals is that for the first time, managers can directly control consultants' contracts. But although they may be able to police the hours a doctor works, without that crucial medical audit information, they cannot control the quality of the work.

None of this would matter very much if there were only a small variation between the best and the worst. But the few research projects which have been carried out show that two doctors performing the same operation on the same type of patient may have very different death rates. The variation in death rates evident in the present crude figures would be enough to terrify most patients.

Paul Kind of York University has gone further, using figures published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to give the precise numbers of deaths for various operations district by district. Birmingham Central has the highest death rate in the country, at 41.2 per thousand operations, while Cambridge has the lowest, with 0.3. Birmingham health authority administrators are quick

to point out that their hospitals provide specialist treatment for a huge area. Their consultants see a larger proportion of high risk cases. But whether these are adequate explanations no one knows, because there are no figures as proof.

Howard Davies, head of the Audit Commission, wants all information of this kind to be published, and the surgeons and hospitals to be named, even if some of it frightens patients. Publication would frighten doctors and administrators too, and would send them scurrying to collect more detailed figures about the quality of their treatments, in the hope of clearing their names.

One key indicator of the quality of a surgeon's work is his infection rate. Professor Alan Maynard, the health economist, says this has far more to do with the individual surgeon than with the hospital in which he works. Yet most surgeons keep no record of how many of their patients succumb to cross-infection, and there is a wide variation between surgeons doing the same operations, even in the same hospital.

Figures from a project in the West Midlands show that specialist urologists performing prostatectomies have a 2 per cent death rate, but general surgeons have a death rate more than five times higher for the same operation. Local people might be less keen to campaign to keep open every little district hospital if they had access to those figures.

If patients are ever allowed access to real information on quality, they may become very much more demanding consumers — and a lot less patient.

Polly Toynbee reports on quality in the NHS on tonight's Newsnight, BBC 2, 10.30pm.



Florence Nightingale: monitored results of surgery

Art prices are a key to New York's confidence, says Charles Bremner: this week they sagged

Renoir for quick sale

The man who sells newspapers on 23rd Street was putting the best face on it: "Looks like that Renoir didn't sell too bad and the Van Gogh wasn't so lousy." Uptown at Christie's and Sotheby's Manhattan sale-rooms, they put it more elegantly, but the stoic message was the same. The worst fears of dealers and owners failed to materialise in two eagerly awaited sales of Impressionist and modern works.

There was no new crash like that of last spring, but still shaky prices and lack of interest have quashed hopes that after 18 months of free-fall from the heights of the late 1980s, the art market has truly turned around.

Léger's post-Cubist *Petit Déjeuner* fetched \$7.7 million at Christie's, a healthy enough figure, though below the modest estimate of \$8 million, and Van Gogh's drawing, *Garden with Weeping Tree* sold for \$1.32 million at Sotheby's, below its \$1.75 million low estimate and still in the abyss compared with the \$6 million a similar work earned before the bubble burst. Giorgio de Chirico's *Delights of the Poet* also showed there was some glimmer of faith in

the market, coming in just under its low estimate at \$2.42 million at Sotheby's. In the depths of recession, the bruised Big Apple is clutching at signs that could herald a return to the good times, or at least a clear bottom that could free upper middle class apartment owners from the "mortgage prison" in which they now find themselves trapped. The roaring art market of the late Eighties helped to fuel the bonanza that turned to bonfire, burning tens of thousands of the middle classes.

Other parts of the country, like New England, may be more depressed, but as the financial, cultural and communications capital, New York is all psychology. Apart from the financial houses of Wall Street, the biggest victim of the crash in confidence is the housing market. Manhattanites talk of little else these days, as owners of condominiums and co-operative apartments who bought in the late 1980s they pray that

someone will make them an offer as big as their mortgages. In the most startling illustration of the gloom, a frustrated property firm last week staged a one-day sale of 141 expensive Manhattan flats, all marked down by 50 per cent. They managed to find buyers for only 50 of these "bargains of the century".

For the local chattering classes, anything serves as a barometer. Donald Trump is spotted shopping at K-Mart, a discount chain, and the news hits the front pages. Someone mentions that *The New York Times* is advertising itself as essential reading for the unemployed and a pall falls on the dinner table.

After a year in which the dominant fashion has been the baggy drab or recession chic, everyone has been watching the spring shows this week for a sign of uplift. Like the art market, the omens are mixed. There are both the high heels that signal recession, and the low heels that denote confidence, as well as several signs of desperation, such as Oscar de la Renta's attempt to brighten the mood by perching beaded parrots on the shoulders of his jackets.

Most of the art buyers this week were Europeans, which suggests that the same psychology may be inhibiting the locals when it comes to both housing and art. In the 1980s, part of the fun was flaunting the price of one's new real estate or painting. Now, like Mr Trump, one has to boast about a sense of value for money. This means no more million-dollar apartments which barely fit a double bed and wardrobe. On the art side, there may be clear value in a big name such as Picasso, but no one wants to be known as the mug who forked out millions in public for small objects of questionable worth.

Private sales might be the answer. But after the drubbing that the less-informed collectors took the last time round, it seems unlikely that even when the market recovers, they will revert to the practice of flaunting the price tag.

Anything you can spend...

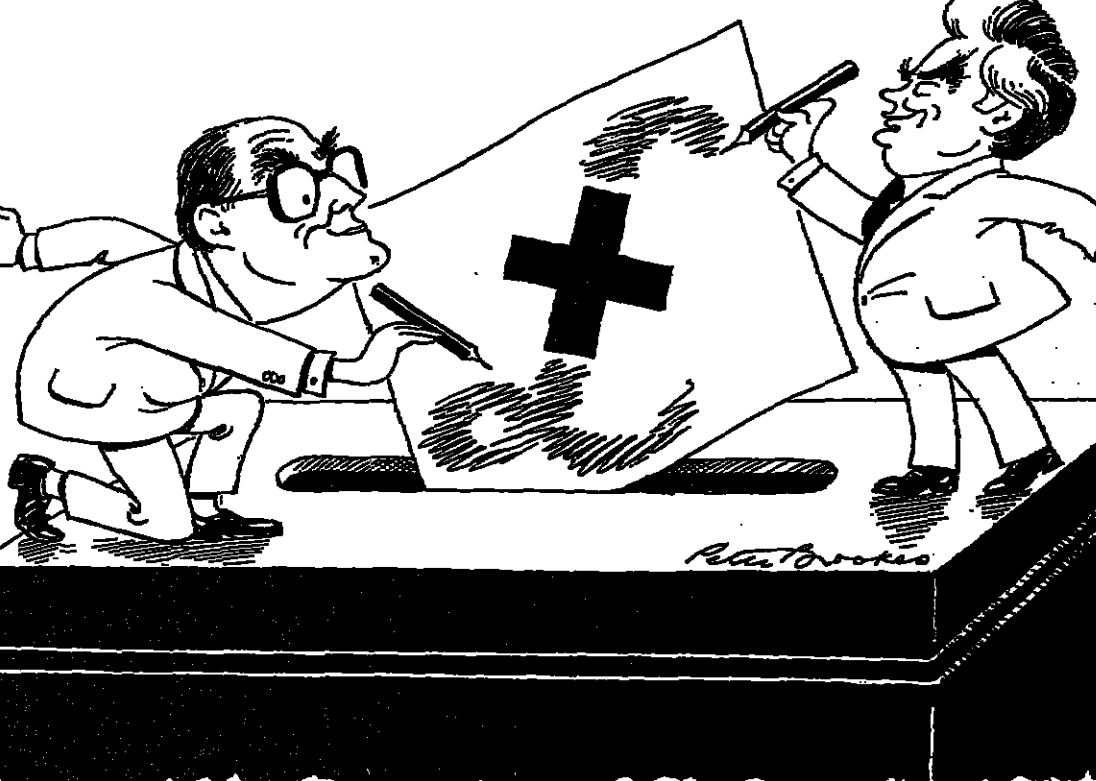
A WEEK IN POLITICS

John Major's government is giving the public what it wants, and it is not Thatcherism. Sedition can be a former prime minister have had to listen — as Margaret Thatcher did uneasily in the Commons on Wednesday — to her old colleagues discarding so many of her favourite maxims about public spending and borrowing. What was a sin is now a virtue. Or, as ministers prefer: "We were so virtuous during the 1980s, surely you can overlook a bit of naughtiness now."

The Tories have so outflanked Labour that the Opposition has been left spluttering about "confidence tricks" and "death-bed conversions". Neither party now has a sustainable long-term tax and spending strategy.

In the Thatcher years, the emphasis was on reducing the size of government. Cutting income tax was a priority, but only if the public finances were in good order. In practice, the Tories quickly abandoned their 1979-80 aim of reducing spending in real terms. It rose. Nonetheless, even excluding privatisation proceeds, the share of government expenditure in an expanding economy was sharply reduced during the 1980s. The government was able to have the best of all worlds by eliminating borrowing and cutting income tax.

John Major began to change the balance when he was Chief Secretary and Chancellor under Mrs Thatcher. In contrast to Sir Geoffrey Howe in the early 1980s, Mr Major accepted that public borrowing should increase in a recession as spending rises and tax receipts fall. That was a standard Keynesian response. But as prime minister, Mr Major has gone further. He has given up any lingering Thatcherite pretence that growing private sector provision will reduce the cost of the health service and education. These will continue to be financed primarily by the taxpayer. Maintaining the



Peter Riddell says the Tories are now as profligate as Labour

quality and efficiency of public services is a priority. Even investment in public transport is favoured.

The rate of increase proposed in most categories of spending for this year and next is twice that of the Thatcher era. The public sector's share of national income will continue to rise until next year, even by 1995 the ratio is likely to be higher than its low point at the end of the 1980s.

Ministers have had some difficulty reconciling this shift with past rhetoric. In Norman Lamont's words, demonstrating that "there is no inconsistency between prudent fiscal and monetary policies and high quality, well funded public services". The government has increased health spending by more than half in real terms since 1979. It is helping the most vulnerable, and is investing in young people. Yet, ministers claim, the spending round was "a difficult one". The chief secretary,

David Mellor, was no pushover: one minister talked of a "brutal mentality". Mr Mellor had 60 bilateral meetings with departmental ministers and allowed only a third of the discretionary spending bids (that is, those not forced upon him by the recession). Moreover, borrowing will still be much lower than in the early 1980s, and the overall burden of public debt has fallen substantially. Trust us because of our record is the cabinet's refrain.

The snag is that it is not always possible to square the circle. The latest spending plans are incompatible with a substantial cut in income tax, let alone a cut from 25 to 20 per cent. Wisely, Mr Lamont describes this as a "medium-term objective". That is a shift since the Thatcher years. Public sector borrowing is already near the limit of acceptability. It will be hard to achieve the aim of balancing the budget over the economic cycle as a whole. Even

privatisation proceeds are likely to fall after next year; there is not much silver left in the cupboard, and there are only spaces on the walls where the Canaletto used to be. The only ways to cut income tax will be to trim these spending plans after the election, or to raise VAT — an issue Neil Kinnock raised in the Commons yesterday.

The government faces European constraints. As Peter Shore pointed out on Wednesday, with Mrs Thatcher nodding in agreement, the proposed guidelines under the treaty on economic and monetary union would limit borrowing to no more than the level already implied for next year.

None of this is good news for Labour. Not only have the Tories increased spending in the sectors Labour has advocated, such as health, education and public transport, but the total expansion is as much as, if not more, than

Labour might have proposed. And John Smith would have had a much rougher ride from the City than Mr Lamont has had. As it is, Labour's spending policy begs the central question.

Last Monday, the shadow economics team — Mr Smith, Margaret Beckett, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair — were put on parade with their red poppies to match the party's red rose emblem.

They successfully conveyed an image of caring competence, like the new breed of smiling bank managers in television adverts. But they will not make precise costings or commitments until they see the books after the election. Labour claims that it will not increase taxes for those earning average wages, and that extra spending on public services will be financed out of the tax receipts produced by growth. But that is unlikely to be enough, even over a full parliament, to meet expectations now being raised by spokesmen. And Labour would not have the benefit of privatisation proceeds.

It is all a matter of how to finance the welfare state. Both parties are being inconsistent. The Tories' current spending plans are incompatible with their medium-term borrowing and tax goals. At least Labour is not promising tax cuts, but in practice the party will not be able to fulfill its spending aspirations without raising taxes. Do I hear the faint voice of Paddy Ashdown saying the Liberal Democrats would be prepared to raise income tax by a penny to finance more education spending?

The autumn statement serves the Tories' electoral purposes even as it strains credibility. There should now be fewer complaints over the winter about cutbacks in the public sector. And Labour will have to refashion its message. Tory strategists hope the combination of higher spending and gradual emergence from recession — Mr Lamont was suitably cautious — will fuel voter optimism next spring. Although yesterday's by-elections will then be long forgotten, there is still a lot to do before the electorate is prepared to trust the Tories with another term.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

The autumn leaves drift by my window, the falling leaves of red and gold. After they have done that, they turn nasty. It is doubtless some kind of lesson to us all, but you would have to call out 24-hour philosopher to identify precisely what. We had rather a good one last year: he said: "People who rabbit on about how beautiful autumn is do not have to ream out gullies. In my game it is total war, it is man versus foliage, shall I do them downpipes while I'm at it?"

He then propped his ladder against the wall briskly, felling a length of guttering. We both looked at it. "You never said you were full of rust, it is not worth my while going up there: you want to re-do the whole lot in PVC, what happens is the leaves retain the wetsome, water, and it corrodes right through, you see what buggers leaves are, was I right? I'll do the gullies, then, I'll be off."

He returned to mind this week, not simply because, despite the brilliant work of a gifted amateur using only a wire coat-hanger and a slipped disc, the same length of guttering fell off again, but because of a concurrence of further events which has persuaded me that *totalities* is indeed what annually confronts us. Leaves are the worst thing to come down since Stukas. Like kamikaze pilots, if I may shift my axis, when they they want to take somebody with them.

Last Sunday, we had a few

people over. The reason they were a few became clear after the two who would have made them the many rang up to say that they were walking towards me from Paddock Wood. As they had not yet reached Sevenoaks, they thought it might be an idea if we started without them. What a boon a cellphone is to the modern train-traveller! Now that autumn is upon us, and passengers ambushed between Paddock Wood and Sevenoaks by leaves are advised to disembark and leg it, how useful to be able to ring up and ask for the sprouts to be put on a low flame!

Peter rang again half an hour later. They had got to Sevenoaks, but Alice's heel had come off and, all in all, they thought it best to call it a day. It is not what I would have called it, but he is a stoical fellow with reserves of grit that BR would do well to emulate.

The Japanese are pretty stoical, too, as I was to discover on Monday. I had not yet met my new Japanese neighbours, but I shall be seeing much more of them now that they no longer have a front wall. It was a pretty impressive front wall, which they had just put up so that they could have two big new iron gates, but it all seems to have been a bit of a waste of time, because they don't have two big new iron gates either. Now, I live at the bottom of a hill, and the Japanese live at the T-junction my hill runs into, but, in autumn, the hill is not all that

runs into it. At 7am on Monday, a car came down my hill a bit too fast. You could tell it was a bit too fast, because after it had braked outside my house, it reduced my new neighbours' premises to rubble.

I came out when the police arrived, because I am a caring person, who never knows when there might be 800 words in something, and, sure enough, the first thing the coppers did was examine the road-surface.

"See these leaves? Froze last night, it's like a bloody ice-rink." My neighbour nodded, and gave a small smile. Rather surprisingly, I thought, but then I do not know what he does for a living. Maybe he's a poet. Maybe he was thinking, you never know when there's 17 syllables in something. Maybe he is even now polishing off his latest haiku.

Wet leaves fall and freeze. Wheels fly on the divine wind. Where is my new wall?

I asked if I could do anything, but he shook his head and clambered back into his house, and I returned to mine. Just in time to hear this crash you already know about. I looked out, and the garden was full of gutter and the two stone of mulch that had brought it down. Only then did it occur to me that the source of all our woe might have had less to do with Adam's apple than where he stuck the leaf he put on afterwards. Foliar revenge. The fall of man.

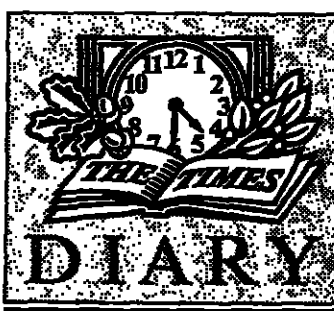
Absent, but not forgotten

SOUTH AFRICA was yesterday accepted back into the international fold when its cricket team arrived in India, but its ambassador to London has been told he is not welcome at the Cenotaph on Sunday. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has again refused South Africa's request to join the tributes at the Remembrance Day ceremony, on the ground that it is not a member of the Commonwealth.

The South Africans feel that their war dead, including 1,400 buried in Britain, and their continued membership of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, to which they contribute £21 million a year, entitle them to a place. The Foreign Office, however, is adamant. "South Africa excluded itself when it left the Commonwealth 30 years ago," says a spokesman.

Instead, Kent Durr, the ambassador, will walk alone to the Cenotaph on Monday, the day after the formal ceremony. Godfrey Williams, the embassy's first secretary, says: "I have talked to the Commonwealth High Commissioners to get their support, but still no invitation has been forthcoming. We are disappointed."

But while the Foreign Office will not admit South Africa to the ceremony, it raises no objection to its membership of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. "South Africa is a valued member," says Beverly Webb, of the commission, whose other members are Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India. Next May, the commission will mark its 75th anniversary with a service at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The event should prove a suitable opportunity for the gov-



ernment to reflect upon its position, as Britain's representatives, Tom King and Michael Heseltine, stand alongside the South African ambassador to pay their respects.

● Soviet comrades may have cast off communism, but that does not prevent them enjoying its fringe benefits. Staff at the Soviet embassy in London were among those taking full advantage of yesterday's national holiday marking the anniversary of the revolution. True, they cancelled their customary eve-of-celebration party, once a prize invitation among Labour MPs and trade union leaders, but the telephones at the embassy rang out unanswered yesterday: "I think they have taken the day as a holiday," said a journalist from *Tass*, which was still working, and with still no sign of a new ambassador on the horizon to replace the disgraced Leonid Zamiatin, who could blame them?

Huge noes

SO who was responsible for buying in the bizarre production of *Les Huguenots* at Covent Garden which has been met with a critical mauling and boos from the audience? The production by John Dew was premiered in Berlin some years ago, so, as John Higgins pointed out in *The Times* yesterday, the House should have known what it was getting.

Indeed someone did, and yesterday Paul Findlay, the opera's director, who is to leave the job in 1993, put his hand in the air and proudly declared he saw the production four years ago and "stands by" his choice.

Not surprisingly, the Royal Opera is feeling bruised by the hostile reception. "We are criticised if we are too traditional. We are criticised if we are adventurous."



Fairest of them all

WHENEVER the future of the *Daily Mirror* is in question, the Labour leadership has an understandable attack of the jitters. Labour officials are known to have made discreet enquiries already, seeking assurance that the title is not for sale.

An editorial in the weekly *Labor* paper, *Tribune*, also voiced the fear that a consortium of Tory supporters in the City might bid for Labour's staunchest press ally. Would Lord Hanson, for example, fancy turning his hand to running a newspaper?

But Jeffrey Archer, never far away from most Tory plots in the hatching, believes the denizens of Walworth Road can rest easy.

"Ian Maxwell would never allow it to happen," he says. "If it did fall into Tory hands, his father would not only turn in his grave but probably come out of it and haul his son in."

Power spending

THE government may hope that Norman Lamont's pre-election giveaway will win him the next election, but the precedents are at best mixed. Jim Callaghan's government increased spending in the year before the 1979 election by an amount equivalent to £9 billion today. Little good it did him.

Harold Wilson, on the other hand, with the prudent Roy Jenkins as Chancellor, allowed public expenditure to fall in the 12 months before the 1970 general election, and paid the price. He should have learnt from his own experience when he won the 1966 election following a hefty increase in spending — £6.7 billion in today's terms.

Edward Heath indulged in a spending round before the election of February 1974 which made even Lamont's current largesse seem modest. He presided over a pre-election spree equivalent to almost £13 billion. But not only did the relaxation of monetary policy fail to win him the election, it provoked the wrath of Mrs Thatcher, who, as a result, challenged him for the leadership in the following year.

● As the debate in Tory circles over Maastricht heats up, government whips have discovered a new Euro-maniac to rank alongside M. Delors. According to a briefing note sent by the whips office this week to all Tory MPs, the European bank of Reconstruction and Development is headed not by Jacques Attali but by that well-known Hunnish purveyor of rape and pillage, Attila.



IN LEAGUE WITH PARENTS

Should schools be graded by statistical performance, like football clubs? The government's schools bill, unveiled yesterday, has evoked howls of complaint from opposition parties, teaching unions and local authorities. Most of them have for years opposed any disturbance to their monopoly of information about what goes on inside state schools. They complained when the government first published reports by Her Majesty's Inspectorate; they complained about testing. Now they object to published examination results, truancy rates and school-leaver destinations. They object to a revamping of the inspectorate intended to ensure that schools are monitored more often and possibly without the same conformity to national doctrine.

The critics also object to those aspects of the bill which ought to help parents to assess a school, once their child is attending it. Under the bill, parents will receive annual teachers' reports, summaries of inspection reports and proposals by school governors for tackling problems identified by the inspectors. The newly-privatised inspectors (themselves inspected by HMI) are told to eschew jargon and tell parents bluntly whether their children are being well taught.

Obviously inspectors' reports and other objective assessments such as exam results must take into account catchment areas and other environmental conditions. Information that a school has lots of bright children in it is of little help. For a prospective or actual parent, the question is how much better a child will be taught at one school than at another. The Audit Commission's demand yesterday for such a "value added" assessment is thus important.

The problem for the education secretary, Kenneth Clarke, is how to do this fairly. Crude exam results, GCSE and A levels as well as tests at seven, 11 and 14, are some guide to value added but only some. The result is that some schools with poor results may be severely under-subscribed, while others may be even more over-subscribed

than at present. The best that can be said is that even this information is better, and less "class biased", than choices based on gossip, rumour and leak.

All statistics need interpreting and exam results are peculiarly susceptible to abuse. Some independent schools have begun to practise ruthless selection in response to recent league tables of A-level performance, such is the commercial pressure from falling school rolls. Such a response shows how crucial is the role of the new inspectors in putting results in context, though it also shows how desperate parents are to find out anything they can about how a particular school is faring.

There is no logical conflict between the Audit Commission and Mr Clarke. Both want more facts published. Mr Clarke is setting a statutory minimum of information. Good schools will want to do more. Heads worried about the league tables should set out their wares in a prospectus, as all private but few state schools have done for years. What is good enough for the well-to-do is not too good for the rest.

Such a prospectus should contain not just raw results of tests and exams, but a weighted table showing how much the school in question had exceeded or fallen short of its predicted results, based on the social make-up of its intake. Most parents would be grateful for this information. They should be encouraged to care less about quantifiable achievement and as much about the institution in the round, sport, music, drama, hobbies and careers advice.

This bill is intended to ensure that schools earn high reputations honestly and that parents learn about failings sooner. Inner-city schools and others with a high proportion of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds will need help from the statisticians if their efforts are to be recognised. Such is the challenge to the profession of the new openness. Neither schools nor teachers should fear the truth being told, so long as it is the whole truth.

WHITE HOUSE BLUES

Domestic problems have prompted President Bush to postpone his trip to Asia. At first sight, that might seem an over-reaction. His approval rating with voters is falling but Mr Bush is still ahead of the norm at this stage in the electoral cycle. No credible figure has yet emerged to lead the Democrats in next year's presidential campaign. The polls also show that most people blame Congress, controlled by the Democrats, for the country's economic and social ills. And who in a year's time will remember this week's vote in Pennsylvania, where Mr Bush's senatorial candidate, Dick Thornburgh, was humiliatedly defeated?

The answer is that Harris Wofford, the victor in Pennsylvania, won by appealing directly not only to widespread anxieties about America's long recession, but to dissatisfaction with such "qualities of life" as health and education. In a campaign widely seen as a referendum on the president's policies, the voters' message was that Mr Bush should descend from the world stage and mind the domestic shop.

The country wants to get America back to work, and in a caring community, and doubts Mr Bush's commitment to domestic priorities. Economic growth has averaged 1.4 per cent during the Bush presidency, the lowest since the second world war. No incumbent president in modern times has been re-elected on a comparable showing. Still more worrying, there are signs that the extremely modest economic recovery now anticipated will not reassure the electorate. The latest "misery index" in *The Wall Street Journal* shows that after a surge of optimism in the wake of the Gulf war, more than half the voters once more believe that America is in decline and only a quarter that the country is heading the right way to recovery.

Voters worry about American competitiveness, about government surveys showing that half the nation's children leave school without the skills needed to hold down a good job. They think it wrong that

millions have no health insurance. And they worry about squalor in the cities, racial tension and crime. The Louisiana gubernatorial race shows how such worries can be exploited by racial extremists.

The trouble is that by staying at home Mr Bush will be expected to "do something", to extend federal spending and federal power. Most of the issues of public concern are properly the preserve of state and local government: 94 per cent of the education budget, for example, is allocated outside Washington. Little federal expenditure is discretionary and Americans are not prepared to countenance cuts in their generous social security retirement benefits or Medicare programmes to make way for public works to clean up their streets.

Nor can Mr Bush resort to a pre-electoral spending spree. Wall Street would catch cold at any hint of higher federal borrowing. By international standards, America's public spending is low in relation to GDP, but federal outlay still exceeds revenue. Even though both parties have abandoned serious reduction in the federal budget deficit until after the presidential elections, its size drains resources into debt service and limits federal spending on the crumbling infrastructure. Unless, that is, more revenue is raised, but the Reagan years have deepened voter allergy to higher taxes. Mr Bush's surest path to re-election would be strong growth coupled with tax cuts, not tax increases.

What the president can do is acknowledge that ordinary voters are being hurt, forget pledges to reduce capital gains taxes and project his command of affairs domestically as he has abroad. Political moods swing rapidly in America. As the Gulf war showed, the country has a remarkable ability to recover faith in its success. But Mr Bush needs to convince voters that America's well-being is his absolute priority. Modern political leadership is still primarily about "enabling" prosperity. That is the message of recent polls in America as in Britain.

A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

For sale: one stately home, marvellous location and view, in need of repair. Heveningham Hall, the Grade I listed Georgian house near Halesworth, Suffolk, is on the market and must find a buyer before December 11. The property, expected to fetch several million, has been for sale since its Iraqi owner died last March. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, must now decide whether to exercise his option to buy it back for the nation. He should do so.

Heveningham, built in the late 18th century by Sir Robert Taylor, is a masterpiece of neo-classical architecture, with a James Wyatt interior and park designed by Capability Brown. It attracted 15,000 visitors last August. In 1981, the building was in public ownership but was sold by none other than Mr Heseltine, who has since often admitted his mistake. While the late owner took steps to honour his promise to restore it, this week's report by *Save Britain's Heritage* shows how dismally he failed. The Hall's plasterwork has suffered shocking damage. Fireplaces have been removed and the legs of Wyatt's tables have been snapped off to make them easier to move.

If no deal with the government or other responsible taker can be struck by December 11, the receivers, Cork Gully, will place Heveningham on the open market. This might be the worst possible outcome, since the covenants imposed in 1981 to keep the Hall open to the public could well lapse. In addition, the Wyatt furniture, now in stor-

age, would be unlikely to return to the house. Heritage lovers applauded when the magnificent Chastleton House in Oxfordshire was bought by the publicly-funded National Heritage Memorial Fund last month. At Heveningham, the government would prefer to play estate agent rather than purchaser and is still desperately seeking a suitable private owner before the deadline. That might please the National Trust and English Heritage, neither of which is anxious for new responsibilities. But the likelihood of finding a buyer who would live at the Hall, restore it, act as its resident curator and open it to the public must be remote.

Mr Heseltine has a number of options. The property could be transferred with an endowment to the National Trust, which ran it successfully in the 1970s. Less costly, because unendowed, English Heritage might take it on, managing it along with neighbouring Audley End. Either owner could in addition make sections of the house available for private development, as at Poleston Lacey, Elton Hall and numerous other great houses now divided in part as flats.

Mr Heseltine has made urban regeneration his trademark. He should not ignore the claims of Britain's great country houses, least of all when the government bears a heavy responsibility for the decay of one of the greatest. Some cultural treasures require a degree of protection which private sector solutions alone cannot provide.

Call for ban on tobacco advertising

From Dr Malcolm Forsythe and others

Sir, As England's 14 regional directors of public health, we regard action on smoking as the touchstone of the government's recently proclaimed commitment to the health of the nation. Lady Hooper, parliamentary under secretary of state for health, should demonstrate that commitment next week when she attends the meeting of the health council of the Council of Ministers in Brussels, by support for an EC directive banning tobacco sponsorship and advertising throughout Europe.

Smoking is the single most important cause of disease and death in this country. With one third of the adult population currently smoking, the unfolding tragedy of their behaviour will be with us beyond 2000, the year by which the government intends to achieve its target of a one-third reduction in the number of regular smokers.

For this target to be achieved, it will be necessary both to persuade over three million smokers to give up the habit permanently and, more importantly, to dissuade 900,000 children and young people from taking it up. As the government states in its green paper, *The Health of the Nation*, clearly the NHS cannot achieve this target on its own. The overwhelming support and action of the government itself is vital.

Tobacco advertising and sponsorship is the immediate challenge.

There is now substantial international evidence from Canada, New Zealand and Norway to demonstrate that the banning of advertising and sponsorship of tobacco products significantly reduces the smoking rates in adults and, more particularly, in children.

The tobacco companies are currently using the media to argue their case in the guise of freedom of speech. It is our contention that they have abused that freedom by influencing our children to smoke. Voluntary agreements past and present have been ineffective in reducing this blatant threat to the health of young people.

Yours etc.,
MALCOLM FORSYTHE (Director, South East Thames Regional Health Authority),
SHEILA ADAM (North West Thames),
RICHARD ALDERSLADE (Trent),
LIAM DONALDSON (Northern),
SIÂN GRIFFITHS (South West Thames),
M. HARRISON (West Midlands),
R. A. HAWARD (Yorkshire),
S. D. HORSLEY (North Western),
WILLIAM KEARNS (North East Thames),
ALASTAIR MASON (South Western),
J. M. O'BRIEN (East Anglian),
RONALD POLLOCK (Oxford),
P. SIMPSON (Mersey),
GRAHAM WYNAR (Wessex),
South East Thames Regional Health Authority,
Thrill House, Collington Avenue,
Brixhill-on-Sea, East Sussex.
November 7.

London archaeology

From the President of the Council for British Archaeology and others

Sir, Your readers may recall, from the correspondence which you carried last summer (July 8, 11, 18, 29) that English Heritage is proposing that any London planning authority seeking advice on likely archaeological deposits in its area, because of building developments, should in future seek it from them rather than, as hitherto, primarily from the archaeologists of the Museum of London. The museum has meanwhile embarked upon a reorganisation of the archaeological service that it provides.

There is now a widespread consensus within archaeological circles in London, and within British archaeology at large, that this change is likely to be harmful to the interests of archaeology in our capital. Such a degree of unanimity is in our memory unprecedented.

We therefore call upon English Heritage and the Museum of London to halt the restructuring that has already begun, and join with us in seeking a new forum for

strategic consideration by all interested parties of the problems that face London's archaeology.

The structure and policies of any reorganisation must be directed by a research framework for London's archaeology, and ensure the continued development of that framework. Yours faithfully,

ROSEMARY CRAMP (President, Council for British Archaeology),
HUGH CHAPMAN (London and Middlesex Archaeological Society),
MARK DAVIES (Society of Museum Archaeologists),
SALLY HAMWEE (London Planning Advisory Committee),
ROSAMOND HANWORTH (Joint Working Party on London Archaeology),
PHILIP HOLDSWORTH (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers),
JEAN MELLOR (Rescue, The British Archaeological Trust),
C. R. ORTON (Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee),
DENNIS TRIVER (Surrey Archaeological Society),
Council for British Archaeology,
112 Kennington Road, SE11.
November 1.

M for Music

From Mr Steve Marron

Sir, How can you assert (leading article, October 30) that "no motorway has yet inspired music"? I can immediately think of three examples from popular rock over recent years: "Autobahn" by the German group Kraftwerk, "2-4-6 Motorway" by the Tom Robinson Band and "The Road to Hell" by Chris Rea, written after a journey around the M25.

No Schumann or Smetana; but perhaps these compositions in their day were also perceived as being as transient as the sources of their inspiration.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE MARRON,
13 Sefton Street, SW15.
October 30.

The cost of a call

From Mr John Brinkley

Sir, Earlier this year I moved house and had the telephone reconnected and cable TV installed. British Telecom had little to do. The cable company, on the other hand, had to dig up and replace the pavement.

It charged £13.23 for this. British Telecom charged £165.54, including a quarter's rental. Are there any plans to break this installation monopoly?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRINKLEY,
47 Hollywood Road, SW10.
November 2.

Marching orders

From Colonel B. A. Fergus

Sir, The difference between old regiments and Arthur Scargill's mining communities (Letters, November 1, 2) is that unlike old coalmines, old regiments do not get worked out. Rather like good whistlers, as you suggest (leading article, November 1), but in order not to breach the law—in this case, EC regulation 1898/87 on the designations that may be used in the marketing of dairy products.

Yours faithfully,
B. A. FERGUS,
(Late The Royal Scots),
St Arvans, Nisbet Road,
Gullane, East Lothian.

'Butter in the works'

From Mr Frank Willis

Sir, The Independent Television Commission (ITC) refused to approve the commercial for the vegetable-fat spread called "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" not to protect the interests of the dairy lobby, as you suggest (leading article, November 1), but in order not to breach the law—in this case, EC regulation 1898/87 on the designations that may be used in the marketing of dairy products.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number—(071) 782 5046.

The law may well be an ass but the ITC has no choice but to have regard to it.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WILLIS (Director of Advertising and Sponsorship),
Independent Television Commission,
70 Brompton Road, SW3.
November 1.

From the Chief Executive of the Butter Council

Sir, The dairy industry is not the only interested party in this debate. Your leading article neglected to mention the trading standards department, which is responsible for protecting consumer interests in this country and upholding the law. It is concerned that the law has been

Making the best of our engineers

From the Director General of the Engineering Council

Sir, While *The Times* is quite right to say (leading article, November 5) that "Engineers should be made to feel they are on the fast track to the boardroom", industry needs to put more effort into developing chartered engineers and incorporated engineers into managers.

If more British companies are to compete effectively in world markets we need to ensure that our best resources are used to achieve forward-looking leadership to meet future needs. Engineers are prime candidates for such posts by virtue of their education, training and experience.

If we take heed now the long-term benefits to this country will be far-reaching and will help to improve the country's industrial competitiveness.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS E. FILER,
Director General,
The Engineering Council,
10 Maltravers Street, WC2.
November 5.

From Eur Ing R. Sabry-Grant

Sir, Your leading article struck a blow for enlightened self-interest. In addition to conversion in the boardrooms of British industry, a corresponding experience is needed in the independent sector of education.

Wealth creation (engineering and other hard sciences) should start to join and, if necessary, replace imperial administration (e.g. the first division of the civil service) and wealth consumption (e.g. the older professions) as a fitting career for the progeny of the 5 per cent or so who can afford to insulate themselves (but for how much longer?) from the rest of the world and traditionally have their offspring educated privately.

I am, etc.,
RALPH SABRY-GRANT,
32 Grange Gardens,
Pinner, Middlesex.
November 6.

Revival of canals

From Mrs Ann Taylor, MP for Dewsbury (Labour)

Sir, The letter from Mr R. J. Duffy of British Waterways (November 1) makes a statement on the policies of BW's present board.

The problem is that BW is squeezed between the needs of maintaining and improving a crumbling infrastructure, much of it dating back for two hundred years, and a government that has reduced its grant year after year. That is why many of us who value our waterways are likely to look extremely sceptically at measures (such as the British Waterways Bill) which make it easier for BW to dispose of assets or weaken its obligations towards such matters as dredging.

No one can dispute that there are inner-city canal sites that will benefit from sensitive and appropriate development. It is right that the

proceeds of such development should be used as Mr Duffy says, ploughed back into the canal and navigable-river network.

But as the financial pressure increases it is easy to see less and less attention given to the sensitive and appropriate criteria and more and more to the revenue-raising potential. The transfer to short-term leases of many of the canal-side small businesses essential to a thriving waterways network has worried many owners that they may become disposable assets.

A combination of salami-style asset disposal and under-investment poses real threats to the waterways as a recreation resource regularly used by eight million people a year. Yours sincerely,

ANN TAYLOR
(Shadow minister for environmental protection),
House of Commons.
November 4.

From Mr D. G. Fagan

Sir, Speaking to the CBI conference (Business, November 5), Professor Sir Roland Smith is reported as using the analogy of football for suggesting that, on the international field, the British industry team should have a British referee (the British government) and that team and referee should all be playing in the same team shirts.

Is this, I wonder, a reflection of Sir Roland's considered thoughts on the respective roles of industry and government, on the organisation of football or on the use or abuse of analogy?

Yours faithfully,
D. G. FAGAN,
5 Meadow Croft,
Bickley, Bromley, Kent.
November 5.

Remember, remember

From Sir John Stokes, MP for Halesworth and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, Far from Cromwell's victory at the battle of Naseby securing "liberty and democracy for the English people" and "the establishment of parliamentary supremacy" (Mr Martin's letter, November 5) it secured exactly the opposite—the abolition of both Houses of Parliament, the suppression of the Church of England, and the country being ruled by major-generals. Incidentally, the theatres were also closed. No wonder people rejoiced at the restoration of King Charles II.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
House of Commons.
November 5.

Behind the times?

From Mr G. C. Bird

Sir, Last July I wrote to the BBC suggesting that now that so many organisations use the 24-hour clock it would be less confusing if it were also used in the BBC printed programmes. I quote from their reply:

We do not believe it is our job to force the pace of change in this way... Just over fifty years ago the BBC introduced the 24-hour clock experimentally in all its announcements and publications... the experiment met with an overwhelming lack of support from the public... we do not believe that public opinion on this matter has changed much since then.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. BIRD,
24 Grove Road,
Sheffield 7,
South Yorkshire.
October 28.

Female tries

From Commander J. B. A. Musters, RN

Sir, Mr Harry Knox (letter, November 2) wonders whether it is coincidental that fathers among the present England rugby XV have people and "the establishment of parliamentary supremacy" (Mr Martin's letter, November 5) it secured exactly the opposite—the abolition of both Houses of Parliament, the suppression of the Church of England, and the country being ruled by major-generals. Incidentally, the theatres were also closed. No wonder people rejoiced at the restoration of King Charles II.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MUSTERS,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

From Miss Alice D. Cooper
Sir, The women's version of rugby has evolved only over the last ten years, and despite a tenfold increase in clubs since the formation of Women's Rugby Football Union in 1983, the incidence of babies is currently quite small. However, a quick telephone survey reveals the ratio is 3.2 in favour of girls, but the women in question were not always married to rugby players.

Yours faithfully,
ALICE D. COOPER,
Women's Rugby Football Union,
2 Ernest Gardens,
Strand on the Green, Chiswick, W4.

From Mr Lawrie Drury
Sir, The Bedford 1st XV of the early Sixties can add support to the theory that rugby players have a marked tendency to produce girls. Two of their then internationals, David Perry and the late Larry Webb, each had four daughters and no sons. Yours etc.,

LAWRIE DRURY,
Kilbrook Farmhouse,
Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire.

From Dr Jean M. Kay
Sir, I have long observed that the more obviously masculine, athletic men tend to produce daughters, while the sensitive aesthetic types have a high percentage of sons, but I cannot suggest a reason.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN M. KAY,
12 Queen's Place,
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Back to unbeatable basics

JULIAN HERBERT



Bryan Adams at Wembley: scrappy but with a robust appeal

ROCK
Bryan Adams
Wembley Arena

THE simplicity of Bryan Adams's show bordered on the brazen. Dressed in his perennial blue jeans and nondescript T-shirt, and with little more equipment to hand than an average pub band might deem necessary, the scrappy Canadian and his four backing musicians took to their job with a confident, workmanlike air. By the time the sound balance was fixed they had knocked out "House Arrest" and "Kids Wanna Rock". Two or three songs later and the back lighting was brought into play. The occasional discreet puff of dry ice and, as far as the staging was concerned, that was it. The response: instant and sustained pandemonium.

Like his songs, the minimalism of Adams's presentation harks back to a mythical golden era in rock, when groups simply stood on stage and played great music. This direct approach has touched a chord with an audience whose collective palate has become jaded by excesses of modern gizmology and larger-than-life showmanship.

Add to this the unerring efficacy of his fourth generation rock 'n' roll songs, an arresting, finely honed combination of Springsteen without the mess and The Faces without the booze — and the formula that has

propelled Adams to the top is nearly complete.

The final piece of the jigsaw fell into place this year with the astonishingly successful "Everything I Do I Do It For You", a ballad of such traditional appeal that it galvanised a huge swathe of lapsed record buyers to return to the shops. The song stayed at the top of the UK chart for an unprecedented 16 weeks, and before he played it at Wembley, Adams brought on stage the country singer Slim Whitman, whose single "Rose Marie" had been the previous longest running UK No. 1 (11 weeks in 1955, four years before Adams was born).

Although very few people in the crowd had the faintest idea who the now not-so-slim Whitman was, his haunting rendition of the equally forgotten "Rose Marie" was indulged as a general prelude to Adams's rather-raising performance of "I Do It For You". The song seems cast like granite in the collective consciousness now; one wonders how much it will mean to a comparable crowd in 2027.

The "encores" began with the surprising, descending sequence of "One Night Love Affair" and were still going strong 45 minutes later, having taken in "The Summer of '69", "She's Only Happy When She's Dancing" and a chunky version of Eddie Cochran's "C'mon Everybody" along the way. As an advertisement for the robust, dependable appeal of the rock 'n' roll basics, Adams is unbeatable.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THEATRE
Party Time
Almeida

HAROLD Pinter wrote *One for the Road* after going to a party and talking to some Turkish girls who would not believe that people had been tortured in their country. "They saw a table with a striking tablecloth and vases of flowers on it, beautiful and worth preserving," he said. "They didn't look underneath and find what tortured people find: mess, pain, humiliation, vomit, excrement, blood."

Could there be a more Pinterish image? The work he composed in the 1960s and 1970s, none of which was specifically concerned with politics, presented us with elaborate tables and darkly hinted at an ugliness below. That is what made it original and haunting. But since he became a public crusader for liberal causes, his

plays have got cruder as well as shorter and fewer. Both *One for the Road* and *Mountain Language*, well-meant playlets decrying the abuse of human rights, took the blood and vomit from beneath the table and shoved our noses in it.

Mountain Language is revived as part of the present programme, and still comes across as no more (if no less) than the dramatic equivalent of a broken bottle thrust into our collective gut. However, the new *Party Time* goes some way towards reconciling Pinter the concerned citizen with Pinter the artist. It ends with a stark picture: a prisoner, framed by white light, who vividly describes the effect of sense deprivation. But we spend 29 of its 30 minutes watching people laugh, drink and suggestively chat, far from the cruelties that ensure their ease.

Those Turkish girls would have felt at home at the party thrown by Barry Foster's debonair Gavin. It is, after all, superficially harmless. Peter

Howitt's Terry, a boorish spiv whose swagger only accentuates his insecurity, boasts of the "gold-plated catering" and "artistic service" available at his club. Meanwhile, his wife, Cordelia Roche's Dusty, keeps embarrassing him with questions about her absent brother, Nicola. Paget's Charlotte coolly discusses her husband's death with her ex-lover, Roger Lloyd Pack's satirising Fred.

This last, loaded encounter is better than anything Pinter has written in years. Never letting her smile falter, Paget reveals that her husband died speedily, yet resists the conventional comfort that his suffering was therefore less. Some deaths, she says, "can be quick and slow at the same time". Then she looks hard at Lloyd Pack and compliments him on his fitness. "What is your diet?" she asks. "What is your regime?"

By now, we have twigged that her husband was a victim of the regime represented by all the men at the

party, this one included. Indeed, suspects are being seized in the streets while the fun continues, the missing brother among them. Roche is risking more than conjugal aggression by asking about him. Howitt's "club" is clearly a cabal of the right-minded and Right-thinking. Dorothy Tutin's Melissa has a moment's regret when she recalls lost friends, but then delivers a stately tribute, applauded by all, to the moral values of this new freemasonry.

Given the names and the accents, Pinter is presumably writing as much about a potential Britain as any actual banana republic: evidence, dare one say, of a certain political paranoia? There is the odd false witness in his production, too, strongly laced though it is. Yet if the play hasn't the richness of *The Homecoming* or *Old Times*, it still implies more than it states, evokes more than it shows. We haven't been able to see that about Pinter for ages.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CONCERT
Murray Perahia
Festival Hall

TO JUDGE from Wednesday's packed audience, public appetite for Mozart is still growing by what it feeds on. But then this was quite some event. Giving the first of three weekly concerts, and starting a focusing crescendo that will continue through chamber music to solo pieces, Murray Perahia was playing three

piano concertos at a stretch, and seemed at the end, one tiny blemish apart, still supremely in control.

This was altogether an authoritative performance. Perahia's Mozart is uprightly phrased, regular in rhythm, untroubled clarity in texture, definite in direction; there is a strong sense of the music's science, of its inheritance from Bach. In these concertos the pianist's lone mastery was emphasised, too, by the way the orchestra seemed always to be taking its cues from him. There was no conductor to share the pianist, only Kenneth Sillito, the leader of the Academy of St

Martin in the Fields, occasionally marking time with his colleagues with his bow, like a majordomo directing the servants.

Perahia's stance could well have appeared a touch lofty, were it not for his saving grace of grace. Every bar came out with a seemingly effortless beauty; every chord chimed. And in the slow movement of the C major concerto K503 there was Schumann around the corner as well as Bach behind.

Before that piece there had come the F major concerto from the early Vienna years; afterwards there was the

E-flat K482, one of Mozart's least played concertos, and one wondered why. The C major slow movement was plungingly dark and searching in its performance, its finale full of tricks. Maybe Perahia missed some of the wit here, but he played it strongly. But this extraordinary work's challenges to virtuosity and imagination were met, not only by him but also by the orchestra, with powerful wind detail and, in the slow movement, a beautifully estranged sound from the strings.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

DANCE
Karas
Sadler's Wells

JUST as we heard the Guy Fawkes fireworks crackling outside, so co-incidentally figures on the Sadler's Wells stage produced their own display. The difference was that the fizzing light erupted from their bodies; they lurched about the darkness like human torches: victims of violence or self-combusting martyrs.

Such is the harsh vision of *dah-dah-sko-dah-dah*, a title whose onomatopoeic syllables, we are told, represent

the beating of a Japanese drum. Saburo Teshigahara and his company Karas, here as part of the Japan Festival and Dance Umbrella, communicate not only the urban alienation of youth but also the post-war anguish of Japan. Images of dying abound, starting with Teshigahara's destructive opening solo to a version of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* for saxophone and pianist (using dancers as well as hands). We see dancers collapse to the ground or roll about as though blown by a nuclear wind.

Teshigahara (whose last visit to London featured a horrifying routine with broken glass) trained as a fine artist. He composes austere yet vivid pictures with bodies, props and the

play of light. Sometimes the stage becomes a street with a narrow curving pavement along which people trudge in single file. Sometimes it is just a darkened space, with rectangles of light on the floor or dancers' gigantic shadows on the back wall.

The choreography mixed ballet steps with mechanical gestural movement, producing dance on the edge, dehumanised and brutal. The seven dancers, often in unison, repeat phrases with unrelenting exactitude; arms circle wildly or flap rapidly. In Teshigahara's own inimitable slow-motion solos, he is liquid, hardly travelling, bent knees swaying and arms undulating as though summoning the surrounding air.

Taped electronic scores hint at industrial, military and urban realities: their pulsating chuggings and whirrings at one point became so eerily amplified that we might have had a jumbo jet starting up in the theatre. At another point, bird calls, the brush of sea against shingle and a shaft of sun had brought hope. But not for long. Karas's dim stage is an imprisoning city. At the end the dancers pounded the walls, replacing the soundtrack with their own desperate percussive calls for escape.

NADINE MEISNER

Arts features, page 14

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE FISHER KING** (19): Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams as two lost souls from the myths of time against modern adversity. Wayward, overboard Terry Gilliam film with dark moments. Cannon Classics (01-322 0388).
Odeon Kensington (01-425 91489)
Leicester Square (01-425 91489)
Whitely (01-792 3332)

◆ **THE FOUR FEATHERS** (12): Coward's army officer redeems himself in the Sudan. Korda's glorious 1929 version of A.E.W. Mason's classic imperial novel. Starring John Clements, Ralph Richardson, Anne Dwyer. Cannon Shepherds Avenue (01-886 8851).

◆ **SHATTERED** (15): Amnesia, murder and plastic surgery in the San Francisco area. Should be fun, but director Wolfgang PETERSON plays it hard badly. With Tom Berenger, Greta Scacchi, Bob Odenkirk. Cannon: Fulham Road (01-370 2638).
Haymarket (01-438 1527) Oxford Street (01-438 1527) Whitely (01-792 3332)

◆ **BOYZ IN THE HOOD** (15): Black urban drama from the streets of Los Angeles. Pledging his word to his friends, a young man is caught in a vicious cycle of violence. With Laurence Fishburne, Cuba Gooding Jr, Laurence Fishburne. Cannon: Haymarket (01-438 1527).
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◆ **CITY SLICKERS** (12): Overstretched sentimental comedy, with Billy Crystal and Charles Hallahan. Mildly amusing during a cattle trip. Starring Daniel Stern, Bruce Kirby, Helen Slater. Director, Ron Underwood. Barclay (01-438 8891) Camden Parkway (01-267 7334) Camden Parkway (01-267 7334) Camden Parkway (01-267 7334) Camden Parkway (01-267 7334)

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◆ **DEATH AND THE MAIDEN**: Julie Stevenson, Michael Byrne. St. Paul's. Royal Court, St. Paul's. SW1 (01-733 1149). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm. 12mins.

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◆ **KVETCH**: Steven Berkoff's trip into the East-End Jewish psyche. With David. Comedy. Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-494 5577). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm. 14mins.

◆ **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**: Roger Allam and Susan Fleetwood star in Bill Alexander's elegant production. Comedy. Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-494 5577). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm. 14mins.

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◆ **POETRY HEADINGS**: The South Bank's short-story season continues with Elizabeth Jolley, Patrick McGrath and Edna O'Brien (tonight); Shen MacKay (tomorrow, 7.30pm).

CINEMA GUIDE

◆ **Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere. Indicated with the symbol (C) on release across the country.**

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◆ **PARIS TROUPE** (18): Dennis Hopper's reformed Southern redneck stands accused of murder. Powerful, authentic drama from Peter Jackson's novel. With Barbara Hershey, Ed Harris, director, Stephen Gyllenhaal. Paramount (01-438 4470).

◆ **RAMBLING ROSE** (15): Innocent sequestered in 1935 Georgia. Episodic, benign, hugely entertaining: memorable performances from Laura Dern, Robert Downey Jr, director, Merwyn Frumberg. Columbia (01-438 1527).

◆ **SPARTACUS** (PG): 1960 Douglas Leeds directed by Stanley Kubrick. Dashing 1960 epic. Starring Peter Ustinov, Laurence Olivier, Tony Curtis. Jean Seaton: a new restored print. Odeon Marble Arch (01-438 1527).

◆ **THE TWENTY-ONE** (15): Love and loss of a cynical modern man. Peter Kennedy's comedy-drama. London type, but not a bad one. Director, Don Boyd. Odeon West End (01-438 1527).

◆ **UNRAVING** (15): Dark, powerful drama from Michael Powell's classic novel about the settling of scores in post-World War II. With Michael Caine, director, Michael Powell. Granada (01-438 1527).

◆ **TOWARD THE SUN**: Natalia Makalova, Robert Floy in 1936 romantic comedy about a Russian ballerina. Pantomime, Camden Street, W1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

◆ **A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES**: Lyrics: Pamela Brown. Music: G. Good. With: The Blues Brothers. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm and 9pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 9pm. 14mins.

◆ **WAITING FOR GODOT**: R. Mayall. Adapted from Samuel Beckett's play. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 9pm. 15mins.

◆ **WHEN SHE DANCED**: Vanessa Redgrave's unforgettable in Sheridan's play about a woman's life. Director, Peter Kosminsky. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

◆ **LONG RUNNERS**: 12 Aspects of London. With: The Long Runners. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

◆ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**: Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical. With: The Phantom of the Opera. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

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◆ **PARIS TROUPE** (18): Dennis Hopper's reformed Southern redneck stands accused of murder. Powerful, authentic drama from Peter Jackson's novel. With Barbara Hershey, Ed Harris, director, Stephen Gyllenhaal. Paramount (01-438 4470).

◆ **RAMBLING ROSE** (15): Innocent sequestered in 1935 Georgia. Episodic, benign, hugely entertaining: memorable performances from Laura Dern, Robert Downey Jr, director, Merwyn Frumberg. Columbia (01-438 1527).

◆ **SPARTACUS** (PG): 1960 Douglas Leeds directed by Stanley Kubrick. Dashing 1960 epic. Starring Peter Ustinov, Laurence Olivier, Tony Curtis. Jean Seaton: a new restored print. Odeon Marble Arch (01-438 1527).

◆ **THE TWENTY-ONE** (15): Love and loss of a cynical modern man. Peter Kennedy's comedy-drama. London type, but not a bad one. Director, Don Boyd. Odeon West End (01-438 1527).

◆ **UNRAVING** (15): Dark, powerful drama from Michael Powell's classic novel about the settling of scores in post-World War II. With Michael Caine, director, Michael Powell. Granada (01-438 1527).

◆ **TOWARD THE SUN**: Natalia Makalova, Robert Floy in 1936 romantic comedy about a Russian ballerina. Pantomime, Camden Street, W1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

◆ **A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES**: Lyrics: Pamela Brown. Music: G. Good. With: The Blues Brothers. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm and 9pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 9pm. 14mins.

◆ **WAITING FOR GODOT**: R. Mayall. Adapted from Samuel Beckett's play. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 9pm. 15mins.

◆ **WHEN SHE DANCED**: Vanessa Redgrave's unforgettable in Sheridan's play about a woman's life. Director, Peter Kosminsky. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

◆ **LONG RUNNERS**: 12 Aspects of London. With: The Long Runners. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

◆ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**: Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical. With: The Phantom of the Opera. SW1 (01-494 5577). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm. 15mins.

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◆ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**: Andrew Lloyd Webber

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Bundesbank unlikely to raise interest rates

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
AND WOLFGANG MÖNCHAU

THE Bundesbank is unlikely to raise key interest rates significantly in the near future, despite its determination to reduce inflation to about 2 per cent.

Financial analysts and European politicians had been bracing themselves for another rise in German rates, possibly as early as the Bundesbank's regular council meeting, held yesterday morning. But German monetary policy remained unchanged and is unlikely to be tightened further in the next few months, judging by comments made by Helmut Schlesinger, the

Bundesbank's president, in an interview with *The Times*. Professor Schlesinger's indication that he is broadly satisfied with the present level of German interest rates could create more room for manoeuvre for Britain and other members of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

One of the Treasury's main concerns about reducing British interest rates further had been the possibility that a monetary tightening in Germany would undermine the pound. But barring an unforeseen acceleration of monetary growth in Germany, the Bundesbank seems unlikely to act in this way, despite the potentially infla-

tionary wage claims being presented by trade unions.

Financial markets have speculated that the Bundesbank might react to these wage claims by raising its lombard rate from 9% to 9½ per cent. But Professor Schlesinger told *The Times* that small changes in market interest rates were not an appropriate way of sending signals to pay bargainers, politicians and the public. The best way to influence expectations was by setting and following monetary targets.

Professor Schlesinger rejected the claims of some outside economists that Germany would have to suffer a recession in order to bring inflation under control. He said that the

prospect of 2 to 2½ per cent growth in Germany next year was consistent with his long-term goal of lower inflation.

Questioned about the recent turbulence in the currency markets and the worries expressed by France and other European countries about the weakness of the dollar, Professor Schlesinger denied that there was concern in Europe about the competitive threat from America. He said that at last month's International Monetary Fund meeting in Bangkok, the only discussion about currencies concerned the yen-dollar exchange rate. "Once people discussed this more earnestly, they would come to the conclusion that

Japan should increase its interest rates to strengthen the yen — and nobody is arguing that, so this is more a case of wishful thinking," he added.

Professor Schlesinger said that generally markets set appropriate exchange rates, but he did suggest that the dollar's low of DM1.45 at the outbreak of the Gulf war was inappropriate. "We know from experience that exchange rates have a tendency to overshoot. You may remember that the dollar declined vis-a-vis the mark during the Kuwait crisis and it recovered after the end of the Gulf war."

Hardliner to diplomat, page 27

BTR lifts Hawker Siddeley bid to £1.55bn

By MARTIN BARROW

BTR has increased its hostile cash and shares bid for Hawker Siddeley to £1.55 billion but failed to secure a recommendation from the engineering company's board.

The increased and final offer values Hawker shares at 760p in cash and shares, with a full cash alternative of 725p. The latter option has been lifted just 3.6 per cent from the original 700p offer but is expected to be enough to attract acceptances from most shareholders.

News of the revised terms lifted Hawker shares from 728p to 742p in an active market, with 10 million shares changing hands. BTR shares, however, fell from 406p to 386½p, with analysts suggesting that the industrial conglomerate may be offering too generous a price.

Sir Owen Green, BTR chairman, who described Hawker's performance over the past decade as "lamentable", said: "Our final offer fully values Hawker Siddeley." The offer represents a multiple of 18.4 times Hawker's forecast earnings of 41.4p a share for the current year.

He criticised Hawker's strategy, outlined in its defence, which involves the disposal of 60 per cent of the company's activities, saying it was "unrealistic and impractical". BTR proposes to retain most of Hawker, limiting disposals to about 20 per cent.

Sir Peter Baxendale, Hawker chairman, urged shareholders to defend the company's independence. "The cash value of the final offer from BTR is only 3.6 per cent above that of their previous bid. This token increase has done nothing to alter our view that BTR's offer fails to recognise the value of our company. We will continue to fight this bid."

BTR, which already owns 6.8 per cent of Hawker, is offering 113 new shares plus £301.25 in cash for every 100 Hawker shares. The fall in BTR shares reduced the value of the cash-and-shares option from 760p initially to 737p, just 10p higher than the original offer made on September 20. Shareholders will also receive Hawker's interim dividend of 10p a share.

Stock market, page 26

TODAY IN BUSINESS

TOUGH TALKER

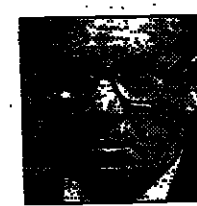


Tough talking Carla Hills, the American trade representative, will be among leading players in the crucial GATT talks in The Hague this weekend
Page 24

LOYD'S FEARS

As many as 5,000 Lloyd's names may resign this year while only 171 applications to join the troubled insurance market have been received
Page 24

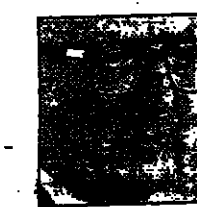
BIT PART



Lord King complains that regulators usually bow to Little Englander lobbies and restrict British Airways to a bit part on the world stage
Page 24

TOMORROW

PROFILE



Peter Carrington, sixth baron, and chairman of Christie's International, is better known in the political arena than in the boardroom, as Carol Leonard discovers

SAVINGS SAFETY

The safety of investing in building societies has been called into question this week. Lindsay Cook looks at the background to savers' fears that their money may be at risk

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7780 (+0.0047)
German mark 2.9046 (-0.0012)
Exchange index 91.3 (same)
Bank of England official base rate (4%)

FT 30 share 1956.7 (+7.1)
FT-SE 100 2538.0 (+3.8)
New York Dow Jones 3040.47 (+2.01)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 2446.76 (-303.44)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10½%
3-month interbank 10½-10¾%
3-month eligible bill 10½-10¾%
US: Prime Rate 7¼%
Federal Funds 4½%
3-month Treasury Bill 4.63-4.62%
30-year bonds 10½-10¾%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7780
£ DM2.9026
£ Sfr2.5630
£ FF9.5257
£ Yen230.70
£ Index 91.3
ECU 1.070377
ECU 1.070377
ECU 1.070377
ECU 1.070377

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$355.30 on \$354.50
close \$354.50 \$355.00 (\$199.50-200.00)
New York: COMEX \$355.55-356.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$22.00 bid (\$22.00)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.8 September (1987=100)
Denotes midday trading price

Kevin Maxwell in New York to ease debts by disposals

Value of MCC falls £235m as shares restart

By ANGELA MACKAY

SHARES in Maxwell Communication Corporation and Mirror Group Newspapers restarted trading on the London Stock Exchange yesterday as Kevin Maxwell, MCC's new chairman, flew to New York to try to clinch the sale of more assets to ease the company's £1.4 billion debt burden.

As predicted, MCC shares plunged from 121p, their suspension price, to close at the day's low of 74p, cutting the company's market capitalisation from £780 million to less than £545 million. This reflected concern about the amount of private Maxwell family company debt collateralised against MCC shares.

Mirror Group, however, fared better, climbing to a high of 118p, compared with 77½p when the shares were suspended on Tuesday after Robert Maxwell's disappearance. Mirror Group's stock closed at 106p after a record 42 million shares exchanged hands. Analysts said the increase was attributable largely to the removal of the "Max factor", which refers to the effect of Mr Maxwell's secretive management of his financial affairs. Brokers said the company had good cash-generative businesses and had debts of less than £300 million.

Shares in both companies remained suspended on Wednesday, after confirmation of Mr Maxwell's death at sea on

Tuesday, while his sons, Kevin, Ian, and Ian, the new chairman of Mirror Group, talked to their private and public company bankers. Maxwell family companies control 51 per cent of Mirror Group and just over 60 per cent of MCC.

Kevin Maxwell marked his first full day as MCC chairman by launching an asset disposal programme about debt. He flew to New York yesterday to finalise the sale of Que, the profitable computer publishing business. The business, part of the Macmillan group, is worth about £160 million.

The first asset to be disposed of was the company's stake in Berlitz, the language tuition company, which was sold to a Japanese publishing house for £265 million.

In a statement issued before dealings restarted, MCC admitted to debts of about £1.4 billion, slightly higher than broker's estimates. MCC said principal bankers, including Credit Lyonnais and Swiss Bank Corp, had reconfirmed their support.

MCC said it was "conducting discussions with various parties which may lead to further disposals being made" and accordingly had decided that if it followed this course, the demerger of the group's American operations was "less likely to proceed".

The board said it had noted the speculation concerning the indebtedness of the group and

wanted to clarify that position before trading restarted.

In an interview on BBC radio, Kevin Maxwell said there was bound to be nervousness among investors, but he hoped the City would give him the chance to manage the business. He said there was no question of the banks moving in to break up the company because they had no call over MCC assets.

After the shares were suspended, some of the loans to the private companies were in technical default, which should have been remedied by the restarting of trading.

The next debt repayment of \$750 million dollars is not due until October next year and more than \$500 million has been raised in the last six weeks through asset sales.

The brothers also issued a separate announcement in the name of Headington Investments saying they had held discussions with the principal bankers to the unlisted companies and interests controlled by or associated with the family.

David Shaffer, president of Macmillan Inc, has been appointed chief operating officer of MCC.

Japanese buy Berlitz stake for \$265m

MAXWELL Communication Corporation started a new round of asset sales yesterday with the sale of Berlitz International, the language instruction business, to Fukutake Publishing of Japan. The deal values MCC's 55.6 per cent stake in Berlitz at \$265 million (Angela Mackay writes).

Berlitz is part of the Macmillan group, acquired by MCC for \$2.6 billion in 1988. One year later, MCC raised about \$225 million by floating 44 per cent of the tuition company in New York.

Fukutake's offer of \$25 a share compares favourably with the company's flotation

price of \$16 and its record of high of \$23. Berlitz shares were suspended on Tuesday at \$19.63. Media analysts said MCC achieved a full and fair price for the stake, particularly since the market knew the group was a forced seller of some of its assets.

MCC and Fukutake are already partners after Maxwell sold 20 per cent of Berlitz, Japan, to the publisher for \$27.1 million last year. In 1990, an offer for Berlitz from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts of America was rejected.

Funeral plans, page 1
Diary, page 16

Mills to appeal over 'right of silence'

High Court curbs powers of SFO

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE wide investigative powers of the Serious Fraud Office were curtailed when it ruled that the traditional "right of silence" is available, in the face of SFO enquiries, to a person who has already been charged with an offence.

Two judges held that a trust company chairman who had been arrested and charged by police was entitled to be cautioned before being required to answer questions from the fraud office.

The decision went against the argument of Barbara Mills, the SFO director, that parliament, in conferring the office's investigative powers under the 1987 Criminal Justice Act, had totally overridden the right of silence in SFO enquiries. Mrs Mills is to appeal to the House of Lords.

The judges granted Wallace Smith, chairman and managing director of Wallace Smith Trust Company, an order



Mills: loses argument

requiring him to be cautioned — to the effect that he is not obliged to answer any questions relating to the charge brought against him — before he can be called on to comply with a fraud office notice seeking information.

Lord Justice Nolan, sitting with Mr Justice Potts, said it was accepted that if the fraud

office had served its notice on Mr Smith before he was charged by police it would have overridden the caution he was given on being arrested. However, the judges added that there was nothing in the 1987 act to suggest that the fraud office's power to investigate suspected serious or complex fraud allowed the exercise of that power, without caution, against a person whose affairs had already been investigated to the extent of a charge being laid against him.

Once a person was charged, his status as a "suspect" changed — he became the subject of criminal proceedings. The judges said the effect of their ruling was that a person under charge "cannot be compelled to answer questions relating to the offence with which he has been charged, although he can be questioned about other suspected offences".

Mrs Mills had pointed out that an interviewee, after

being told that he was obliged by law to answer truthfully and could be prosecuted for withholding information without good cause, was informed that any statement he made could not be used in evidence against him unless he later gave inconsistent evidence in a criminal trial.

The judges said they had every sympathy with the director in her attempt to reconcile her duties with the code of practice requiring a caution to be administered.

A spokeswoman for the fraud office said it was considering the implications of the judgment and pointed out that it had been given leave to appeal. Anthony Scrivener, QC, chairman of the Bar, said the decision was a landmark in criminal justice. "The SFO thought it could demand answers throughout its investigations, long after charges were laid. Now it will be subject to the ordinary rules of interrogation," he said.



Back in play: BZW's dealing room sees the return of MGN shares from suspension

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Bush hurries to end world trade deadlock as election looms



Heading for showdown: Carla Hills, the US negotiator

TALKS to finish the struggling General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations on world trade will reach their highest pitch for nearly a year as President Bush arrives in The Hague this weekend for a showdown over agricultural subsidies.

Meetings this evening and tomorrow are part of the routine cycle of meetings between the community and the US administration, but President Bush has put the GATT talks at the top of the agenda. All the key players in the slow-moving talks on reducing farm subsidies will be present. The American president will be accompanied by Edward Madigan, the agriculture secretary, and Carla Hills, the administration's top trade negotiator. The EC will be represented by Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister and chairman of the Community's council of ministers, and Jacques Delors, the commission president, along with the EC's foreign affairs and farm commissioners.

Mr Madigan held talks in Brussels yesterday with Ray MacSharry, the EC farm commissioner. Over the past fortnight, the two have met every few days in either Washington, Geneva or Brussels. In

George Brock reports that negotiators from the EC and US are 'hesitantly optimistic' about reaching a solution to the five-year GATT talks

Geneva yesterday, Arthur Dunkel, GATT general secretary, told the officials trying to produce final texts on the non-agricultural trade due to be included in the deal that they should hold non-stop negotiations in an attempt to finish the Uruguay round of the talks by the end of the year. The drafting discussions had been suspended since running into difficulties late last week.

All sides agree that the five-year negotiations, which involve 108 countries, must close by the end of this year or fail. By the New Year, the American presidential election primaries will be under way and Washington is not thought likely to have the time or the flexibility to finish a sensitive trade negotiation during a campaign. Advocates of a package deal designed to reduce tariffs and subsidies on everything from pomegranates to pharmaceuticals say that world output could rise by £2.325 billion. Since a high-level attempt to finish the talks collapsed into

name-calling nearly a year ago, farm support has been the pivot of the problem. Exhausted officials have spent the past ten months trying to reconcile the demand from America and the Cairns group of food exporters for a 90 per cent cut in EC farm subsidies with the EC's offer of 30 per cent cut over ten years, counting from 1986. In public, neither position has changed, while statements all over the world have signed declarations avowing their solemn intention to conclude the talks without specifying any actual concessions.

In private, however, diplomats are hesitantly optimistic. The EC commission, which negotiates for the EC's 12 states, and American officials have reached the following position:

□ After a shift by the German government a few weeks ago, Mr MacSharry has tacit permission from national ministers to step just outside his formal negotiating guidelines.

□ A scheme of arcane devices

known as the "green" and "amber" boxes is being used to divide up types of farm subsidy and shrink the total amounts of European subsidy which would automatically be reduced under a GATT deal. How far this sleight of hand can be taken is unclear. In the words of one British official, it "drives a large hole in the logic of a GATT agreement".

□ America has quietly acknowledged that the EC's attempt to move towards maintenance for farmers, instead of the price-supporting system of the common agricultural policy (CAP), will help world commodity prices to fall. □ Because of the ballooning cost of the CAP, the EC's offer of a year ago has become more expensive. What was once a total subsidy cut of 15 to 18 per cent over the next five years would now be a cut of about 23 per cent.

These fixes do not make a deal, but they could be the beginning of one. The meeting in The Hague will need to signal — in the traditionally bland code used in communiques — that the political leaders think that a deadlock can be broken in the next month. Such a sign will give Mr Dunkel the clout to try to solve the final disputes lurking in

the non-agricultural parts of the deal. The EC has always insisted that its concessions in agriculture should be rewarded by favourable new rules on subjects such as intellectual property, which have never previously been policed by GATT. In particular, EC commission officials stressed yesterday that America would have to stop using sanctions in its laws in trade quarrels being settled inside GATT rules.

Even if the legal technicians can fashion a deal, politicians could still snatch defeat from the jaws of success. Most observers believe that a farm deal has to be completed without EC farm ministers, vocally opposed to any extra concessions, being allowed near it. The French government, low in the opinion polls and with violent demonstrations by farmers confining its ministers to Paris, has not formally assented to any stretch at all in Mr MacSharry's mandate for the talks. Paris could disown a deal. If the leaders make the right noises in The Hague this weekend, diplomats will, however, try to tie up a deal before December 11, when EC farm ministers are next due to meet.

Nadir on bail until February

Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck International, who faces 76 charges of theft and false accounting amounting to £155 million, was further remanded until February 11 at Bow Street Magistrates Court yesterday.

Mr Nadir was joined in the dock by John Turner, Polly Peck's former group chief accountant, who faces ten false accounting charges relating to about £7.4 million of Polly Peck funds. Mr Turner is accused of dishonestly falsifying a Polly Peck cash book for amounts ranging from £200,000 to £1.2 million on various dates between April 1988 and September 1990.

A request by Anthony Scrivenor, QC, Mr Nadir's lawyer, that the Serious Fraud Office transfer the original 18 charges to the Crown Court within seven days was rejected by Sir David Hopkin, the chief stipendiary magistrate, who remanded both men until February 11.

Sir David lifted a travel ban on Mr Nadir, who was remanded almost one year ago on record bail of £3.5 million, to allow him to accompany Polly Peck's administrators to Turkey. Mr Turner was bailed unconditionally.

CWS departure

David Lacey, one of two deputy chief executives at the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), is to leave the organisation at the end of the year after 12 years, most recently in charge of production and property. He had been a contender to succeed Sir Dennis Landau as chief executive when he retired next June but the top job went to David Skinner, aged 59, the other deputy chief executive, who is in charge of retailing and services.

Fenner plunges

Fenner, the Hull-based motion and control group that warned shareholders in May of a £6 million year-end provision, has reported a pre-tax profit of £7.44 million for the year ended August 31 — down from £16.1 million a year earlier. Turnover was £204 million (£215 million). The final dividend is held at 5.1p, making an unchanged 8.5p. The shares rose 11p to 115p.

Dip at Appleby

Appleby Westward Group, the Spar and VG wholesaler, has reported pre-tax profits of £855,000 (£1.19 million) for the 28 weeks to September 6, and said it is unlikely that second-half results will show any significant improvement on first-half figures. The interim dividend is held at 3p a share. Turnover was £40.8 million (£38.9 million).

Aberfoyle post

David Hardy, former chairman of Globe Investment Trust, has taken charge at Aberfoyle, the troubled trading company, following the resignation of its chairman, Ian Coates. Mr Coates resigned yesterday amid a new drive by dissident shareholders to appoint a new board of directors.

Pittencrieff issue

Bell Lawrie White and Greig Middleton have placed 862,640 new shares in Pittencrieff with institutional investors and private individuals for cash. The proceeds, which will amount to approximately £1.3 million, will be used for investment and working capital purposes.

Insurance losses trigger record Lloyd's exodus

By JONATHAN PRYNN

RESIGNATIONS of Lloyd's names this year have already reached record levels and the number may approach the 5,000 predicted by David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's.

Alan Lord, the chief executive, disclosed at a press conference yesterday that 3,245 names have resigned so far. The final figure will not be known until the new year, but at the same stage last year the figure was 1,894. If the pattern of resignations follows that of

last year just over 4,000 names will have left the market by January.

Mr Lord said that if names who were forced to stop underwriting because of their failure to meet the Lloyd's solvency requirements were also taken into account, he would expect the number of "active participants" to fall by between 4,000 and 5,000. There have so far been 171 applications to join Lloyd's next year.

A large outflow had been

expected because of the big losses suffered already by some names, and the fear of being locked into an "open year" with continuing future losses.

The earlier, higher estimates of resignations were, however, recently played down by Lloyd's, which had been hinting at a final tally closer to 3,500. The figures announced by the insurance market yesterday suggest that a significant number of names have left it until the last minute before deciding to opt out.

Mr Lord said that the record number of resignations by names was not unexpected, given recent market conditions. "After the first loss for 23 years this is a rather special year," he said.

As with last year, the names leaving Lloyd's tend to be those with a smaller participation in the market who have found it less easy to withstand the losses incurred in 1988 and 1989. This year the average resigning name had a participation at Lloyd's 30 per cent smaller than the market average. As a result, the underwriting capacity of Lloyd's is likely to fall by only 10 per cent to about £10 billion.

About 6,000 names have said that they want to increase their capacity next year. Some market participants have expressed disappointment at the limited size of the projected fall in capacity and argue that bigger falls are needed to put more upward pressure on premium rates.

Mr Lord described the current situation at Lloyd's as "not as gloomy as two to three months ago". The large number of names wanting to increase their capacity was "consistent with the view that 1992 may be the first of a series of good years", he said. Premium rates were hardening in the marine, aviation and motor markets and were being driven by the substantial increase in reinsurance rates, particularly in excess of loss.

Rates in the American casualty market remained flat, he said. Lloyd's is expected to record losses for 1989 and 1990 with a substantial improvement in the result for this year. The loss in 1988 was £310 million.

Gas profits reach £65 from every smaller customer

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas made profits averaging £65 from each of its 17 million domestic and small business customers last year, according to figures published by the company yesterday.

The breakdown of profitability in the company's tariff market, published under pressure from Ofgas, the regulatory body, also shows that rising profits are on course to move beyond the range considered acceptable by Ofgas unless the company agrees to a proposed tightening of the regulatory regime.

A British Gas spokesman said the profit on the average family bill of around £280 a year was less than £65 because of higher usage by small businesses. However, he was unable to provide a more detailed breakdown.

Ian McKinnon, the director general of gas supply, said British Gas's tariff sector was clearly "a very profitable business". The company has agreed to a tightening of the inflation-linked formula that controls tariff market prices. The formula, based on the retail prices index, is set to change from RPI minus 2 to RPI minus 5 with effect from April 1. However, a report from the Office of Fair Trading has also recommended a more fundamental shake-up of the business.

Since British Gas was

privatised in October 1986, the profitability of its monopoly business supplying 17 million domestic and small business customers has risen strongly.

In the first full year of privatisation, to end-March 1988, the tariff sector made profits of £533 million. By the year to end-March 1991, the figure had risen by 81.6 per cent to £968 million. The return on assets, calculated on a current cost basis, had risen from 3.9 per cent to 6.6 per cent. According to British Gas figures, the return last year, had the weather not been milder than usual, would have been 7.3 per cent. That is above the range of 5 to 7 per cent that Mr McKinnon believes appropriate, given the lack of risk involved in a monopoly operation.

Comparing the newly published figures with less detailed breakdowns of British Gas's supply business in its annual accounts shows that introduction of transparent pricing in the industrial market, in October 1988, reduced the company's profits by around £150 million a year.

The change, which was designed to assist with the development of competition in the industrial market, was forced upon British Gas by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.



Take out the fear: Robin Leigh-Pemberton yesterday

Governor exonerates 'short-term' markets

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, yesterday dismissed claims that short-termism is to blame for the lack of long-term investment in Britain.

In a speech to the Stock Exchange's annual conference for industry, Mr Leigh-Pemberton said: "It may well be that companies here do look for a faster payback on investment than do companies in some other countries. But to attribute this entirely to the short-sightedness of financiers — or even short-sightedness of company boards — is to ignore both the competitive pressures which companies face and, critically, the economic climate within which they have to plan and operate."

He said the problem was Britain's macroeconomic environment rather than "any structural deficiencies in our financial markets".

"In Britain's economy, with its history of stop-go cycles, it is not surprising that investment calculations appear to take a short-term view."

He added that "we need to take the fear — if I can put it like that — out of the rate of return calculations. The task of the 1990s has to be to establish a permanent and broadly based consensus on this issue."

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said, however, that "one concern that I do share relates to dividend policy. We should, I believe, question the pressure on companies to maintain dividends even at the expense of reserves."

Recovery continues at News Corp as profits hit £58m

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE News Corporation continued its recovery in the three months to end-September, aided by a substantial improvement in its British newspaper operations, which include *The Times*. The Australian international media group, led by Rupert Murdoch, made pre-tax profits of Aus\$131.5 million (£58 million) in its first quarter, against Aus\$65.1 million in the period last year.

Turnover fell 4 per cent to Aus\$2.7 billion, mainly due to disposals in America and Australia. Operating profit rose by a quarter to Aus\$420 million and net interest charges fell from Aus\$285 million to Aus\$256 million, thanks in part to lower interest rates. The group absorbed continuing losses of Aus\$39.6 million, however, against a small profit from associates, which include its half share in the Austen airline group, BSKYB television in Britain and its new newspaper in eastern Germany.

Net profits after tax, but before abnormal charges of Aus\$1 million, quadrupled to Aus\$107.4 million, leaving earnings up from Aus\$0.12 to Aus\$0.36 per share. In Britain, the group recorded an operating profit of Aus\$61 million, against losses of Aus\$19.1 million, on revenue down from Aus\$602 million to Aus\$446 million.

This partly reflected the merger elimination of losses of Sky Television, which was merged into BSKYB in November last year and is now treated as an equity investment. Sky channels reached 2.4 million homes by the end of September.

News Corp also achieved better operating margins in its five British newspapers, *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Today*, thanks to a full quarter's benefit from cover price increases and cuts in staffing.

In America, operating profits rose 3 per cent to Aus\$269 million on revenue of Aus\$1.7 billion, thanks to higher profits from Twentieth Century Fox Film. Profits from television were maintained and Fox Broadcasting increased its audience ratings.

In Australia, where newspaper interests have been rationalised, profits were little changed at Aus\$89.7 million on lower revenue of Aus\$509 million.

Worldwide, profits from

filmed entertainment trebled to Aus\$48.5 million, book publishing was unchanged at Aus\$101 million, despite the sale of interests in Australia, but magazine profits were lower because of disposals.

Since the end of the quarter, the group has announced the sale of 55 per cent of its Australian commercial printing and magazine interests through a flotation, has raised US\$175 million through a private placing of convertible preference shares, and announced that it is preparing an offer of US\$450 million in new equity and at least US\$250 million of long-term debt.

BP books show war damage

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE steep fall in oil prices in the wake of the Gulf war caused historic cost profits — measured using the oil price at the time of purchase — at British Petroleum to slump from £822 million to £156 million during the quarter to end-September.

Measured on the replacement cost basis that the company favours, however, profits rose by 25 per cent to £129 million.

Although the price of North Sea crude rose by more than \$1 from the second quarter to average \$19.91 a barrel, BP's accounts are still suffering from the effects of the war. The company suffered stock losses of £554 million for the first nine months of the year. Almost all of the loss was recorded during the first quarter, but the latest figures look poor because last year's profit was flattened by an extraordinary increase in stock values.

For the first nine months, BP's replacement cost profits were £963 million, up 29 per cent on the same period of last year. Within the total are £92 million of profits from selling assets in Sweden, Britain and America.

Earnings per share for the first nine months amount to 7.6p (22.8p). However, the third quarter dividend has been raised 6 per cent to 4.2p, making 12.6p (11.85p) for the first nine months.

Chiefs clash over need for regulation in airline industry

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S two leading airline chiefs yesterday took opposing positions in the argument over the role of governments and regulators in the future development of the aviation industry.

Lord King of Warrnaby, British Airways chairman, attacked national authorities which, he claimed, were taking too narrow a view and failing to provide the support that would enable the industry to grow.

Meanwhile, Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, was urging regulators to step in to prevent large airlines, such as BA, from shutting out competitors.

Speaking in London, Lord King said: "We in this country must decide whether we wish to be a significant player in the world airline industry. If we

are content with a bit part on the world stage then we can surrender to the little England lobby, seek the applause of special interest groups and cater to the needs of local constituencies. There are those who preach competition and practise patronage. They demand the allocation of rights and routes and landing slots — but not by price and not by any competitive process."

"Why struggle for competitive advantage by the sweat of brows and the expenditure of capital when it can be obtained and bestowed by political favour? If we wish to be world class we must be able to tell the difference between talking competition and practising it, and we must persuade our regulators, both in the United Kingdom and the European Community, to do the same."

In Nottingham, Sir Michael

said: "The air transport business has powerful in-built tendencies towards monopoly and that market domination is reinforced by capacity shortages at key points within the system."

Competition could only be preserved, therefore by some form of rationing system, which would not reduce the number of competitors, he said.

"Of very great importance is the need, even in the most highly liberalised environment, for regulatory intervention to ensure that the market place is not dominated by excessive concentration within the industry. This requires not only the right kind of intervention but also some considerable courage on the part of those who have been given the task."

Lord King has been increasingly concerned at what he regards as unfair decisions,

which, he claims, have helped small airlines compete with him while preventing him from taking on the giant airlines from America and the Far East.

Sir Michael and Richard Branson, Virgin Atlantic's chairman, on the other hand, fear they could be swamped by BA unless they are helped through legislation.

Lord King reiterated his view that when airline liberalisation is complete in Europe there could be only two or three major airlines left, and he hopes a British company will be one of them.

Sir Michael believes that competition is vital if competition is to prosper and that a handful of global giant airlines will battle to keep out new entrants rather than compete with each other. "It is a paradox that we have got ourselves into a position, not only in this country, but

around the world, where governments have to regulate in order to bring deregulation or liberalisation about," he said.

Mr Branson said after Lord King's speech: "It really is time for him to step down. For 40 years now, BA has had everything they want from successive governments. In any other business, they would be broken up. The independent British carriers are not asking for that. We are asking for the right to be given the necessary slots to compete alongside British Airways on their principal routes."

Lord King also attacked the government over an issue in which he does have the backing of his rivals — the £2,000 fines imposed on an airline that, even accidentally, carries an illegal immigrant. BA has been fined £6.5 million since the Act was introduced in 1987. The fines were doubled in August.



Fighting the narrow view: Lord King, BA chairman

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Turriff suspended as the receivers go in

TURRIFF, the construction and plant hire group, yesterday gave up its long struggle for survival and asked Lloyds Bank to appoint a receiver. The news came just a few hours after the company had asked the London Stock Exchange to suspend dealing in its shares pending clarification of the company's financial position. The shares were suspended unchanged at 27p.

Turriff has faced severe financial problems all year, after the slump in commercial property values forced it to make heavy provisions against its joint venture developments at a time when group borrowings were rising.

Ten days ago it unveiled a pre-tax profit of £44,000 for the six months to end-June, but an attributable loss of £1.9 million after £2 million of refinancing and restructuring costs. Asstly Whittall, chairman, said then that Turriff was dependent on the continuing support of its banks.

Builders' firm dips

HALF-YEAR pre-tax profits at BMSS, the USM-quoted builders' merchant based in Shrewsbury, have slumped from £675,000 to £254,000 for the six months to end-July.

The general downturn in trading was exacerbated by the poor weather in February, the company said. Turnover fell by 34 per cent to £8.6 million. However, gross profit margins improved from 27.5 per cent to 29.8 per cent. The company said it believed the worst of the recession was over and it hoped that profits for the second half would show an improvement on the first half. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2p and is paid out of earnings of 2.23p (6.09p).

Fairfax falls heavily

JOHN Fairfax, the Australian newspaper group, reported a net loss of Aus\$376 million (£166 million) for the year to June 30 yesterday, compared with a loss of Aus\$59.1 million the previous financial year, after writing off abnormal costs incurred when it went into receivership last year.

The Tourang consortium of Kerry Packer, the Australian publisher, and Conrad Black of Canada, and an Australian group are in the process of lifting their offers for the company, which owns two daily broadsheets and a national financial daily, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* of Melbourne and the *Australian Financial Review*.

Burtonwood ahead

INCREASED profits from property disposals helped Burtonwood Brewery, the Cheshire brewer, to report a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.05 million (£2.38 million) in the six months to September 28. In difficult trading conditions turnover, affected by closures, declined by 2 per cent to £22.6 million (£23 million).

Trading profits fell 14 per cent to £1.99 million, but profits on the sale of property jumped from £860,000 to £1.81 million. The company said that its joint venture with Vantage Inns was performing "particularly well". The interim dividend is maintained at 0.7p.

Assets rise at SJPC

THE net asset value at St James's Place Capital, Lord Rothschild's investment group, stood at 95p a share at the end of September, compared with 78.6p a year earlier and 91.7p at the end of March.

Pre-tax profits amounted to £5.4 million in the six months to end-September, against £9.3 million last time, although this is not directly comparable as the company's reconstruction in August almost halved the asset base. Earnings per share slipped to 1.5p, down from 2.3p previously, but the interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p. There was an extraordinary credit of £1.3 million.

TUC urges UK firms to follow Japan's example

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN WILLIS, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, has rekindled the inter-union row over single union agreements with a call for British companies, and the government, to learn from the attitudes of Japanese employers in Britain.

Praising Japanese companies for taking a long-term view, and "treating their employees as valued assets", Mr Willis declared his personal backing for single union deals "in appropriate cases".

The general secretary's endorsement of Japanese labour practices in Britain, although qualified, runs counter to a motion passed at the TUC conference in September that condemned them as "alien". The motion, proposed by the MSF technical union, caused divisions in the labour movement, and the TUC's general council, led by Mr Willis, refused to endorse the description.

Mr Willis, at a conference of the Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute in London, spoke yesterday of resentment among unions that consistently failed to win beauty contests to provide single-union representation at Japanese plants.

Ken Gill, general secretary of the MSF, reacted with fury. "I am fed up with being lectured about the meaning of the word alien," he said. Mr Gill said the general secretary should have seized his opportunity to tell Japanese employers to accept multi-union agreements in the British tradition.

Mr Willis, however, insisted that single union deals showed the desire of Japanese employers to work in partnership with the British trade union movement.

"They recognise the contribution a union makes to success," he said. "I wish our government would learn the same obvious lesson."

Mr Willis compared the attitudes of Japanese companies favourably to those of many British firms. "By and large, they do many of the things that trade unions are continually asking British firms to do," he said. "Above



Willis: Japanese lesson

all, it is a concern with quality, in training, design and production. It is an approach that offers much to British industry, and one from which we can learn a great deal."

Mr Willis said Japanese companies came to Britain not simply in search of cheaper labour, but to gain access to the European market through an English-speaking country with a highly skilled and flexible workforce.

The excellent stance adopted by the general secretary matches the attitude of leading members of the TUC, such as the Amalgamated Engineering Union, which argue that single union deals are an acceptable price to pay for representation in Japanese assembly plants.

Union leaders are acutely aware that they risk effective exclusion if they fail to reach agreements. Mr Willis, however, yesterday insisted that the biggest threat to single union deals came from the government, rather than employers opposed to recognition.

The government's green paper on trade unions, he said, was intended to destroy the TUC's Bridlington Rules, which prevent unions poaching members from one another.

The rules underpin single-union deals, and prevent a disaffected minority of union members blocking agreements on changes in working practices, Mr Willis said.

Results help the industry recover from a bad week

Leeds profits and provisions rise

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

LEEDS Permanent Building Society reported yesterday that profits rose 11 per cent despite a tripling of bad debt provisions. The results of the No 5 society were a boost for the industry in the week when the rescue of the Town & Country, the fifteenth-largest society, was announced.

The Leeds, which has a September 30 year end, is the first of the top five societies to report its figures. It produced pre-tax profits of £190.2 million compared with £171.3 million in 1989-90. It also reported that all its subsidiaries, including its estate agency and credit card business, were in the black.

The total cost of bad and doubtful debt was £57.9 million, compared with £19.9 million. The society has changed its provisioning system and now makes general provisions for potential losses that could be incurred if it had to repossess 70 per cent of homes where mortgages are three months or more in arrears, resulting in a bad debt provision of £44.3 million.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive, said: "That figure of 70 per cent is in our opinion extremely prudent, because the market would have to deteriorate at an amazing rate for 70 per cent of those arrears cases actually to result in losses." The number of homes in the possession of the society is 2,000 to 3,000.

The society has added a further £13.6 million to the provisions to take account of interest that should have been earned on repossessed properties, but will not be. Mr Blackburn said: "This is the first time we have had to write off any interest because in the past, the sale of repossessed homes has raised enough money to cover it."

"Last year, although our provisions proved perfectly adequate, we made our calculations, hoping and believing the government would get us out of the recession well before now. This time, we have taken an even more critical look at the way we estimate provisions, and we have taken a sceptical view of talk of an upturn."

The Leeds does not reveal

how many home buyers are in arrears. Roger Boyes, finance director, said that 90 per cent of its £13 billion of mortgages were operating normally.

Assets increased 11 per cent during the year to £16.2 billion and the society reduced its cost/income ratio to 43 per cent, compared with 46 per cent last year and 53 per cent in 1989. Mortgage advances increased to £2.8 billion from £2.5 billion. Of this, £1.2 billion took the form of fixed and capped loans.

Property Leeds, the estate agency subsidiary, made a profit of £48,000 compared with £700,000 in the previous year. This was largely because of cost efficiency measures.

Its Visa business made a £900,000 profit. This has also donated £2.5 million to charity since it was launched three years ago.

Leeds Permanent Overseas, the society's operation on the Isle of Man, made a profit of £450,000.

Leeds Permanent Financial Planning, the independent financial advice subsidiary, made a profit of £180,000.



Interest write-off: Mike Blackburn of the Leeds

Ex-aide to French minister charged

Paris — Alain Boubil, former chief of staff to Pierre Bérégovoy, the French finance minister, was charged yesterday with insider trading in connection with the 1988 acquisition by France's Pechiney of the American company, Triangle Industries, court officials said.

M Boubil, aged 43, is the 11th person charged in the affair. He resigned in January 1989 to be able to defend himself, and has denied allegations of misconduct.

Although M Boubil did not trade in Triangle shares on his own behalf, he is accused of having passed on information that enabled one or more investors to make a profit from trading in Triangle's shares during the negotiations that led up to the acquisition.

M Boubil said he now had full access to the evidence against him which "will allow me to be exonerated rapidly, and this time definitively".

Before the Pechiney acquisition, M Boubil is known to have met Nelson Peltz, the Triangle chairman, and Samir Traboulsi, a Lebanese indicted for insider trading, on a boat owned by Pechiney's finance director. (AP)

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No lament over Lamont

Equities have tended to do well in the early days of Labour governments, before the rot sets in and prudent economic management gives way to the accommodation of Labour's powerful pressure groups. There is no reason therefore to suppose that shares will do any less well under Labour-style plans for government spending such as those announced in the autumn statement. Yesterday, the stock market was unruffled by the detail of the chancellor's proposals.

For some time now, the compelling arguments for buying shares have been based on a sharp recovery in corporate profits in 1992.

All recessions end and when this one has clearly run its course, the conditions will be present for a substantial turnaround in corporate activity and profits. Profits of quoted companies, which tend to have a higher overseas-profit element, will tend to benefit from a recovery in the American economy too. A number of the more respected forecasters are expecting increases of the order of 20 per cent next year.

The autumn statement has done little to upset that basic prospect, which Goldman Sachs analysts suggest could take the FTSE-100 index up by no less than 25 per cent in the next 12 months given a Conservative victory at the general election. However, the decidedly worse outlook for the gilt edged market following the chancellor's speech may prove a restraining factor on shares.

Whatever the election outcome, shares look a better bet than cash or gilts. Labour's economic approach would surely be similar to that of Chancellor Lamont and would not upset present expectations. Under Labour, gilts are likely to be upset by longer term worries about inflation and government spending. Equities on the other hand will gain in the short run from additional demand which Labour can be expected to inject into the economy.

GPA floating

Had GPA been a publicly quoted company in the past year, its shares would have plummeted, possibly setting off a crisis of confidence. Fortunately, thoughts of flotation were put off and GPA has remained safely private with a list of trade and institutional shareholders that would be the envy of any international group.

The world could hardly have been kinder to the world's dominant aircraft leasing company in the run-up to what is now expected to be a three-way flotation in London, New York and Tokyo next summer. Its airline customers have been suffering one of their worst recessions; Japanese and other international bank lenders have been drawing in their horns and the appeal of financial investments in aircraft has been about as buoyant as their second hand price.

The group's response has been remarkably strong, with profits falling only modestly at the half year stage. Indeed, they look almost too good for the many potential investors who do not really understand how GPA ticks. One of the group's main strengths has been its diverse customer and geographical spread. The worst of the airline slump has been in America, whence GPA draws only 11 per cent of profits and in Europe, which accounts for a further 35 per cent. New business has been concentrated in other areas, such as the Far East, where the recession has hardly struck and growth rates are higher. Most of the profits are also from the sale of aircraft on lease. These release the discounts GPA now wins from manufacturers as well as putting a real cash value on the value of the leases. The accountants will be busy but GPA thinks it has nothing to fear from the details of its business being subjected to the scrutiny previously possible only to its shareholders.

Hardliner adopts diplomatic stance in best interests of the Bundesbank

Helmut Schlesinger explains the thinking behind German monetary policy to Wolfgang Münchau and Anatole Kaletsky

Bundesbank presidents have a history of confounding expectations about their leadership. Karl Otto Pöhl, the first social democrat in the job, turned out to be tougher than had been expected at the time of his appointment. Helmut Schlesinger, the present incumbent, arrived with a reputation for being a ruthless anti-inflationary hardliner. But he is turning into a more diplomatic and flexible figure than some people had feared and others had hoped.

Yesterday's decision by the Bundesbank's central council to leave interest rates unchanged, despite market expectations of another nudge upwards, was consistent with Professor Schlesinger's thinking. The professor believes that the mark and German interest rates are broadly at the right levels and that manipulating markets to achieve small changes in interest rates is not the way to drive home the Bundesbank's anti-inflationary message.

Looking further ahead, Professor Schlesinger and the Bundesbank have accepted the virtual inevitability of European monetary union and, with a few minor reservations, now lead their support to the Dutch draft treaty that would eventually supplant the Bundesbank and the German mark with a common currency and a European central bank. The confrontationist style that marked the last year of Herr Pöhl's presidency has given way to a quieter and perhaps more co-operative mood.

Of course, high inflation (which in Professor Schlesinger's book means anything over 2 or 3 per cent) remains unacceptable in the medium term. But in the short term, he appears more tolerant, recognising the unique historical events that have led to many of Germany's immediate economic problems. Being overtaken in the low-inflation league table by countries such as France, Denmark and even Ireland is not important. He said: "It would bother me had we not had the historic event of unification. But under these conditions, I must say, we have a good explanation."

"If we had not had unification, we would not have a budget deficit like the one we have. We would now not have a deficit in our current account, we would have surpluses, and we would have capital exports. And I think the same is true for inflation. In other words, we can explain our current state of affairs by this particular, but very important, historic change."

German inflation peaked at 4.4 per cent in July, and is almost



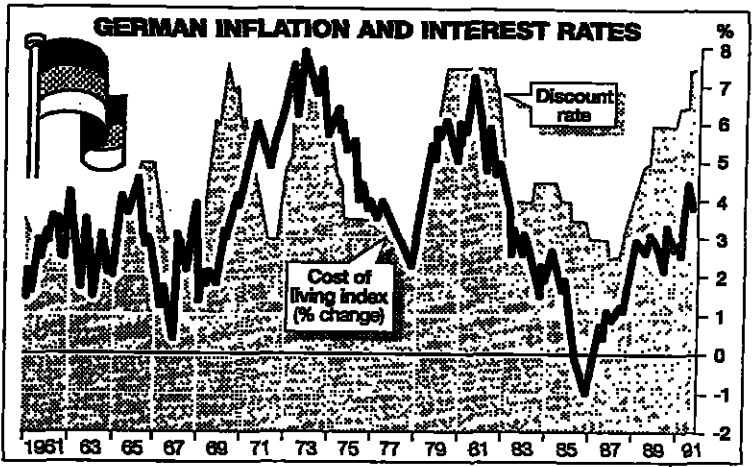
Return to roots: Helmut Schlesinger, the anti-inflationary hawk whose diplomacy was unexpected

certain to be above 4 per cent early next year because of the effects of indirect taxes, budget deficits and high pay settlements, which currently average about 7 per cent. But none of these factors can be influenced by interest rates directly. Monetary policy, says Professor Schlesinger, can prevent excessive wage settlements and budget deficits from being imbedded in the economy as permanently higher inflation. Professor Schlesinger says the Bundesbank sent a clear signal of its determination to curb inflation in August by raising its discount rate a

fine-tuning. He added: "The signal was, in my opinion, the increase of the discount rate in August by 1 per cent. An increase of 1 per cent is what the public takes into its mind. It is the only important signal which we have set this year."

So, are there any more signals to come, or, in other words, can we expect any further rises in the discount rate? Professor Schlesinger went as far as a Bundesbank president can reasonably go in damping expectations of rates rises. "I am not so sure. We increased the discount rate when the public began a more open debate about the economic conditions in which we are living at the moment. But perhaps the word signal is misleading. We have to come to a more continuous explanation of the intentions of our policies, and the monetary target is the instrument which can be helpful to that end."

The stress on monetary targets, rather than interest rate changes, involves no change of heart for Professor Schlesinger, even if it may temporarily make him seem less of an anti-inflationary hawk than his predecessor. Herr Pöhl used to hold the threat of higher interest rates like a sword of Damocles over the heads of politicians and wage bargainers.



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ministering to Middleton

SIR Peter Middleton, hitherto a career civil servant as permanent secretary to the Treasury, could be forgiven for experiencing a certain feeling of déjà vu at his first corporate board meeting yesterday — only four days into his new job as chairman of BZW and deputy chairman of Barclays Bank. Middleton, aged 57, tall, slender and looking just like a character from *Yes Minister*, admits that he has had a bit of a culture shock — "But quite an enjoyable one" — after 30 or so years at the Treasury. Pressed to identify the differences between Barclays and Whitehall, Middleton said there were surprisingly few. "Barclays is quite big enough to have a bureaucracy. It is, after all, bigger than the Treasury." Was there anything he missed? "Oh yes, there are some things you miss. For a start, there aren't any ministers here." No sooner had he spoken, however, than who should arrive for the meeting but Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, and, as such, Middleton's boss for seven years. A small world. "Yes, isn't it just," Middleton says, with scarcely disguised glee.

Friendly rivalry

WORD that Simon Duffy, operations director at Guinness, has been made group finance director of Thorn EMI will go down a treat on the Chelsea cocktail circuit. For the appointment keeps him in step with his old chum Archie Norman, who leaves Kingfisher soon to take up the role



"Heads we invest in BT - tails we pay the phone bill"

of chief executive at Asda, the troubled supermarket group. The pair, who live near one another off King's Road, first met at N M Rothschild in the early Seventies, when Duffy, newly down from Oxford, was given the task of interviewing graduates, one of whom was Norman. "I turned him down," recalls Duffy, aged 41. The pair then found themselves at Harvard together, and became firm friends.

Party postponed

MARCUS Colby's fourth quarter day celebration, due to be held in Corney & Barrow, Old Broad Street, on November 19, the day before his 88th birthday, will have to be postponed. Colby, the oldest stockbroker still in full-time employment in the City, as well as one of the most popular and respected, has broken his ankle and will be laid up in Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, for a fortnight. To add to his troubles, upon his arrival in

hospital, he was told that recent back pain might have been caused by cancer of the spine. "But now all that seems to have gone out the window," says Colby, who works for W I Carr, is adamant that he will be out of hospital in time for his actual birthday party on November 20. To speed his recovery, we will be sending him a magnum of Krug Grande Cuvee champagne.

AN application to use farmland at Isle Brewers as two airstrips has been submitted to district council planners... by Mr Glide.

Salomon jobs lost

AMONG the estimated 25 London-based individuals who lost their jobs at Salomon Brothers yesterday — with a further 15 jobs lost in continental Europe — were Philip Wylie, motors analyst, Stephen Lewis, banking analyst, Chris Walls, property analyst, Douglas McDowell, UK equity salesman, and Tom Milner and Stewart Bevis, market-makers. All are described as able professionals, unlikely to be on the job market for long. Some of the other job losses were on the Japanese and American equity desks. "We employ about 1,000 people in Europe. 940 of them in London and this represents less than 5 per cent," says Lee Bruce, a spokesman, adding that the reduction in staff levels was the result of a strategic review that began in June. Salomon Brothers is not withdrawing from any market sectors.

CAROL LEONARD

LOSING THE WILL TO SELL ABROAD

From Mr Oliver Kingdon
Sir, As a former member of various councils of the CBI, I take a continuing interest in that organisation and its activities. I notice that the Director General has said that his members have been suffering from an unnecessary recession.

A few days ago on a visit to the German city of Karlsruhe I was a member of a party entertained to lunch by the management of the leading department store. When asked what proportion of their sales were of British goods, they

replied emphatically "none". Despite the recession, there seems to be no shortage of German consumer goods in this country. Could Mr Banham explain what are the policies of the government that have discouraged the sale of British consumer goods in Germany, and encouraged the sale of German goods here. Or have British managers lost the will to succeed?

Yours etc,
OLIVER KINGDON,
6 Woodland Drive,
Mapperley Park, Nottingham.

Shops frustrate recession relievers

From Christina Speight
Sir, Your correspondent, Joan Wrycraft (November 1), is not alone in being a frustrated shopper in these allegedly recessionary times. May I list my frustrated purchases in the month of October alone?

1. Standard wall tiles, on display but not available under a six-week wait!

2. One of the most popular educational toys which was not available from the wholesaler within the week necessary to be in time for a birthday — and this in the lead-up to Christmas.

3. Standard A4 continuous office stationery, out-of-stock at the retailer and the wholesaler.

It is not just the elderly who are being neglected, but businesses, householders and families in general. To be told by a news commentator that it is now "up to the shopper" to pull us out of recession is a sick joke! I have been wandering around waving £20 notes all month without success.

Marks & Spencer report falling profits. I am not surprised. Despite numerous requests, our local branch fails to stock a basic item of merchandise available at most other branches, with the result I do my weekly shopping at the local supermarket at least once a month. Thus Marks & Spencer lose perhaps £25 because they refuse to meet the demand for a £4 item which occupies virtually no floor/shelf space at all!

Yours faithfully
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT
20 Ramillies Road, W4

Age barrier and equal opportunities
From Mr Derek Marshall
Sir, Mr Peter Tompsett's letter (November 4), regarding the age barrier exercised by corporations to external applicants, raises the question: "Why are senior posts advertised with an age criterion

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Street _____
Town _____
County _____ Postcode _____
Phone No. _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ 19____ Male ☐ Female ☐
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Relationship to child: Parent/Guardian ☐ Grandparent ☐ Other ☐
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Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Shell	Industrial	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	British Petroleum	Industrial	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	British Airways	Transport	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	British Telecom	Telecom	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	British Gas	Utilities	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	British Steel	Industrial	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	British Airways	Transport	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	British Telecom	Telecom	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

Weekly Dividend
110.00

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

Best gains not held

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 28. Dealings end today. Settlement day November 18. Shareward gains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
110.00	110.00	1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
110.00	110.00	2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
110.00	110.00	3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
110.00	110.00	4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
110.00	110.00	5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
110.00	110.00	6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
110.00	110.00	7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
110.00	110.00	8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

FOODS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

LEISURE

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Shell	Industrial	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
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3	British Airways	Transport	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	British Telecom	Telecom	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	British Gas	Utilities	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	British Steel	Industrial	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	British Airways	Transport	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	British Telecom	Telecom	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

Weekly Dividend
110.00

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Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
2	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
3	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
4	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
5	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
7	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
8	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4

Portfolio

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5	British Gas	Utilities	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
6	British Steel	Industrial	110.00	1.00	4.5	24.4
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Weekly Dividend
110.00

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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House of Lords

Law Report November 8 1991

House of Lords

Citizenship change on colonial independence

Motola and Another v Attorney-General
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Lowry

[Speeches November 7]

A person born in a British protectorate was a British protected person. That was the meaning of the phrase as defined by section 32(1) of the British Nationality Act 1948 and read with section 3(1) of the Protected Persons Order in Council (SI 1949 No 140).

The status of a British protected person was different from that of a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies but one status added nothing to the other. It did not follow that one status was inconsistent with the other. Thus persons could be both citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies by descent and British protected persons by birth.

Under the independence legislation of Zambia, such persons in Northern Rhodesia became citizens of Zambia on October 24, 1964, under section 3(1) of the Constitution of Zambia in Schedule 2 to the Zambia Independence Order (SI 1964 No 1652). But under section 3(2) of the 1964 Act they ceased to be British protected persons and under section 3(3) of that Act they ceased to be citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies.

The House of Lords so held allowing an appeal by the Attorney-General from the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Nolan) (The Times February 5, 1991) 2 All ER 312 who had dismissed an appeal by the Attorney-General from Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division (The Times

December 13, 1989; [1990] 2 FLR 261).

The President had granted declarations, *inter alia*, that the marriage of the parents of the petitioners, Safiya Motola and Faruq Motola, was valid and that the petitioners were their legitimate children and that they were citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies by descent.

The Attorney-General appealed only on the ground that the petitioners lost their citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies on the independence of Zambia. It was made clear on his behalf that the appeal was on a point of principle. No difficulty was anticipated in the petitioners acquiring British citizenship.

Mr E. James Holman, QC and Mr Andrew Moylan for the Attorney-General; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr S. P. Dharma for the petitioners.

LORD BRIDGE said that the issue was whether the petitioners were, as the courts below had held, British overseas citizens for the purposes of the British Nationality Act 1981 or, as the Attorney-General contended, citizens of Zambia. The resolution of that issue depended on their status at birth and the effect on that status of the independent legislation of Zambia.

There was now no dispute that at birth both the petitioners became citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies for the purposes of the British Nationality Act 1948. The central question was whether they also became, for the purposes of the 1948 Act, British protected persons.

Ismail Motola and Ayshabibi Motola, the father and mother of the petitioners, were both born in India. In 1950 they were both living in Northern Rhodesia where they went through a ceremony of marriage.

In 1953 the father became a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by registration in Northern Rhodesia. Safiya was born in Northern Rhodesia on December 2, 1962. Faruq was born there on June 16, 1964.

Northern Rhodesia became the independent state of Zambia on October 14, 1964. After independence the parents had three more children, Abubakar, Oumman and Fatima, born in Zambia in 1965, 1968 and 1973 respectively.

In 1968 the parents went through a second ceremony of marriage and the mother became a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by registration.

In 1978 the mother came to live in England. She applied for a British passport for herself and the five children. It was accepted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (the FCO) that the mother was entitled to a British passport as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by registration.

However, of the five children, the FCO were prepared to recognise only Fatima as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies. That was because the FCO accepted the validity of the 1968 marriage but denied that of the 1953 marriage.

Citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies by descent was only acquired under section 5 of the 1948 Act by the legitimate child of a father who was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies at the time of the child's birth. On that ground the FCO denied the entitlement of the four older children to hold British passports.

But in the case of Safiya and Faruq, they denied it because the additional ground that, even if they were citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies at birth, they lost that citizenship when Zambia became independent.

The terms of section 9(1) of the 1949 Order in Council, as incorporated in the definition of a British protected person in the 1948 Act, read together, translated simply as "British protected person" means, *inter alia*, a person born in a protectorate.

That language was not qualified by any express provision to be found elsewhere in the Act or in the Order in Council and unless there was ground for implying the qualifying words "unless he is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies" that must resolve the issue.

The Court of Appeal had held that there must be such an implication. It was correct, of course, that the status of a British protected person was different from that of citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies and it might be true that, in United Kingdom law, the one status added nothing to the other, in the sense that a British protected person enjoyed no advantages denied to a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies.

But it did not follow that the one status was inconsistent with the other. Accordingly, the petitioners, from their birth in Northern Rhodesia until Zambia became independent were both citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies by descent and British protected persons by birth.

Therefore, they became citizens of Zambia on October 24, 1964. Did that deprive them of their citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies by descent?

Mr Collins submitted that section 3(2) operated to deprive a person of his status as a British protected person however and whenever he became a citizen of Zambia. Thus the petitioners

lost their status as British protected persons when they became citizens of Zambia on the appointed day.

Section 3(3), however, only operated to deprive a person of his separate status as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies if the constitution contained a provision whereby he became a citizen of Zambia on the appointed day by virtue of that separate status.

That construction of the section was unacceptable. It required that one should read into subsection (3) some such words as "by virtue of his citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies" and there was no reason for making such an implication.

The Zambia Independence Act 1964 proceeded on the basis that the new state wished to admit immediately to its citizenship, those who automatically became citizens of the new Commonwealth country, henceforth to be included in the list of countries in section 1(3) of the 1948 Act with their own separate citizenship laws, should automatically cease to be citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies.

If there was no escape from the conclusion that the petitioners lost their status as British protected persons when they became citizens of Zambia on the appointed day, section 3(1) of the constitution, there was equally no escape from the conclusion that they ceased to be citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies under section 3(3) of the Act.

LORD ACKNER, LORD OLIVER, LORD JAUNCEY and LORD LOWRY agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Jakobi & Co for Livesey Scott, Preston.

Role of foreseeability and intent in assault offences

Regina v Savage
Director of Public Prosecutions v Parmenter

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Ackner, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Lowry

[Speeches November 7]

In order to establish an offence of wounding or causing grievous bodily harm under section 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 it was necessary to prove that the defendant actually foresaw that his unlawful act would cause some physical harm to the victim even if of a minor degree.

In order to establish an offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm contrary to section 47 of the Act, it was not necessary to establish that the defendant intended to cause some bodily harm.

The House of Lords so held in determining two appeals from the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division.

An appeal by Susan Savage against a decision by the Court of Appeal (The Times May 18, 1990; [1991] 2 WLR 418) quashing her conviction for wounding contrary to section 20 and substituting a conviction for assault occasioning actual bodily harm under section 47 was dismissed.

An appeal by Philip Mark Parmenter against a decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times July 30, 1990; [1991] 2 WLR 408) to uphold his convictions of four offences contrary to section 20 was allowed.

LORD ACKNER dealt with the issues raised *seriatim*.

1 Was a verdict of assault occasioning actual bodily harm a permissible alternative verdict on a count alleging unlawful wounding contrary to section 20?

Mr Goldsack had argued that the decision in *R v Springfield* (1969) 53 Cr App R 1 was correct and should never have been overruled by *R v Wilson (Clarence)* (1984) AC 242.

The critical question was did the House of Lords in *R v Wilson* include either expressly

or by implication "allegations of assault occasioning actual bodily harm" in section 20 of the Criminal Law Act 1967?

His Lordship agreed with the reasoning of Lord Roskill in *Wilson* (at p261) and rejected the submission that *Wilson* was wrongly decided.

A verdict of guilty of assault occasioning actual bodily harm was a permissible alternative verdict on a count alleging unlawful wounding contrary to section 20 of the 1861 Act.

2 Could a verdict of assault occasioning actual bodily harm be returned upon proof of an assault together with proof of the fact that actual bodily harm was occasioned by the assault or must the prosecution also prove that the defendant intended to cause some actual bodily harm or was reckless as to whether such harm would be caused?

It was common ground that the mental element of assault was an intention to cause the victim to apprehend immediate and unlawful violence or recklessness whether such apprehension was caused: see *R v Penna* (1976) QB 421.

Was there a further mental state that had to be established in relation to the bodily harm element of the offence?

Clearly the section by its terms expressly imposed no such requirement. Did it do so by necessary implication? It neither used the word "intentionally" nor "maliciously".

The words "occasioning actual bodily harm" were descriptive of the word "assault" by reference to a particular kind of consequence.

The decision in *R v Roberts* (1972) 56 Cr App R 95 was correct. The verdict of assault occasioning actual bodily harm could be returned upon proof of the fact that actual bodily harm was occasioned by the assault.

The prosecution were not obliged to prove that the defendant intended to cause some actual bodily harm or was reckless as to whether such harm would be caused.

3 In order to establish an offence under section 20 must the prosecution prove that the defendant actually foresaw that his act would cause harm or was it sufficient to prove that he ought to have foreseen it?

The issue was a narrow one: was the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal in *R v Cunningham* (1957) 2 QB 396, still good law subject only to the gloss placed upon it by the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division in *R v Mowatt* (1968) 1 QB 421?

did the later decision of the House of Lords in *R v Caldwell* (1982) AC 341 provide the answer to the question?

Mr Sedley submitted that in *Caldwell* the House could have followed either of two possible paths to its conclusion as to the meaning of the word "recklessly" in the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

Those were: (a) To hold that *Cunningham* (and *Mowatt*) were wrongly decided in relation to the 1961 Act, because it was a single test, whether recklessness was an issue; or (b) To accept that *Cunningham* (subject to the *Mowatt* gloss) correctly stated the law in relation to the 1961 Act, because the word "maliciously" in that statute was a term of legal art which imported into the concept of recklessness a special restricted meaning, thus distinguishing it from "reckless" or "recklessly" in modern revising statutes then before the House, where those words bore their then popular or dictionary meaning.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Sedley that manifestly it was the latter course which the House followed. Therefore, in order to establish an offence under section 20, the prosecution had to prove either the defendant intended or that he actually foresaw that his act would cause harm.

4 In order to establish an offence under section 20 was it sufficient to prove that the defendant intended or foresaw the risk of some physical harm or must he intend or foresee either wounding or grievous bodily harm?

If section 20 was to be limited to cases where the accused did not intend or foresee wounding or grievous bodily harm it would have a very limited scope. The *mens rea* in a section 20 crime was comprised in the word "maliciously".

The decision in *Mowatt* was correct and it was quite unnecessary that the accused should either have intended or have foreseen that his unlawful act might cause physical harm of the gravity described in section 20, that is, a wound or serious physical injury.

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Disclosing confidential company report to third party

In re British & Commonwealth Holdings plc
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Woolf

[Judgment November 1]

The court had discretion to order disclosure to a third party of a confidential report or document made by an officer of that company in support of an application under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for an order requiring that third party to produce documents relating to the company and should do so if and to the extent that it might be unable fairly to dispose of the application if part of the evidence were withheld. It was, however, open to that officer to satisfy the court that confidentiality in whole or part was nevertheless appropriate.

The Court of Appeal so held, in allowing an appeal by Spicer Oppenheim ("S & O"), chartered accountants, from its refusal by Mr Justice Morritt of their application for liberty to inspect the confidential report filed by the administrative receivers of British & Commonwealth Holdings plc ("BCH") in support of their application for orders against S & O under section 236(2)(c) and (3) of the Act.

Section 236 of the 1986 Act provides: "(2) The court may, on the application of the officer, make such order as it thinks fit, so far as it is necessary to enable him to carry out his duties, for the production to him of any books, papers, documents or other records in the possession or under his control relating to the company or the matters mentioned in paragraph (c) of section 236(2)(c) and (3) of the Act.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that in September 1988 BCH had acquired Atlantic Computers plc for about £420 million. In May 1989 S & O, the auditors of Atlantic from 1983 until May 1989, had given an unqualified audit report to Atlantic's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1988.

Subsequently, its statement of affairs, annexed to its administrative receivership under section 23 of the Act, disclosed a deficiency in assets of £279 million. BCH itself followed Atlantic into administration in June 1990.

Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr Robin Knowles for S & O; Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Mr John Brisby for the joint administrators of BCH.

any such person . . . to submit an affidavit to the court containing an account of his dealings with the company or to produce any books, papers or other records in his possession or under his control relating to the company or the matters mentioned in paragraph (c) . . ."

Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr Robin Knowles for S & O; Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Mr John Brisby for the joint administrators of BCH.

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Contract made abroad under duress voidable in England

Dimsak Shipping Company SA v International Transport Workers Federation (The Evia Luck)

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Lowry

[Speeches November 7]

A contract made in Sweden agreeing to pay sums of money to prevent secondary industrial action in another jurisdiction, such activity being unlawful in England, was voidable as the proper law of the contract was English. The fact that the activity was legal in the foreign jurisdiction was irrelevant.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal brought by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) against the majority decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times December 12, 1989; [1990] ICR 694) who had allowed the appeal by the shipowners, Dimsak Shipping Company SA, from the order of Mr Justice Phillips in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division who had dismissed their claim for a declaration, damages and other relief against the ITF.

Dimsak, a Panamanian company, were owners of the *Evia Luck*, which flew the Panamanian flag. ITF was an international federation of trade unions based in London.

In February and March 1983, while the *Evia Luck* was berthed in the port of Uddavalla in Sweden, agents of the ITF boarded her and, acting in furtherance of a long standing policy of the ITF, employed men of cheap labour on ships with flags of convenience, demanded that Dimsak enter into certain contracts and undertakings, take certain actions and make certain payments to ITF.

These demands were backed by threats that unless they were met, the *Evia Luck* would be blacked. As a result of threatened or actual blacking, Dimsak contracted to pay US\$111,743 plus interest to ITF.

Subsequently, they issued a writ claiming *inter alia* (i) a declaration that they were not bound by the contract by reason of the economic duress exerted by ITF and (ii) an order for repayment of the sums paid.

Mr Michael Burton, QC and Mr Paul Lowenstein for ITF; Mr Peter Leaver, QC and Mr Steven Gee for the shipowners.

LORD TEMPLEMAN, dissenting, said that the courts of this country should not concern themselves with industrial action lawfully carried out in the place where the action occurred.

As Lord Diplock had pointed out in *Universe Tank Ships Inc v International Transport Workers Federation* (The *Universe Sentinel*) (1983) 1 AC 366 there was no difference between tort and restitution.

Moneys paid as a result of industrial action were committed and irrecoverable in this

country under the law of tort should not be recoverable in this country under the law of restitution. The contents of the bottle could not be changed by altering the label.

LORD GOFF said that the question which fell for decision was whether, in considering whether the pressure should be treated as illegitimate, the English courts should have regard to the law of Sweden, where the relevant pressure was exerted on the owners, under which such pressure was lawful.

Starting from the generally accepted proposition, embodied in rule 154 set out in *Derry and Morris. The Conflict of Laws* (11th edition, 1987) volume 2, p1213, the material or essential validity of a contract was governed by the proper law of the contract, which in the present case was English law.

Accordingly, in the present case his Lordship looked to English law, as the proper law, to discover whether the contract was voidable as a matter of principle, affected by duress and, if so, what constituted duress for that purpose; what impact exercised upon the formation of the contract; and what remedial action was available to the innocent party.

By English law a contract induced by duress was voidable by the innocent party and one form of duress was illegitimate economic pressure, including the blacking of a ship.

His Lordship could see no reason in principle why, *prima facie*, at least, blacking a ship should not constitute duress for that purpose, wherever it was committed; for in point of fact its impact upon the contract did not depend upon the place where the conduct occurred.

It followed therefore that, *prima facie* at least, whether or not economic pressure amounted to duress sufficient to justify avoidance of the relevant contract by the innocent party was a matter for the proper law of the contract, wherever that pressure had been exerted.

The question then arose whether there was any basis in law for rejecting that simple approach, on the ground that the conduct in question was lawful by the law of the place where it occurred, namely, Sweden.

Mr Burton's primary submission was that in relation to any duress abroad, in English law the court should, subject to overriding questions of public policy, look to the law of the place of duress to test its lawfulness or legitimacy.

His Lordship knew of no authority which supported the submission which, if correct, would require the recognition and formulation of a fresh exception to rule 154.

The ITF relied upon the analogy of tort. Under English law, since the House of Lords decision in *Boys v Chaplin* (1971) AC 356, conduct in a foreign country was only actionable as a tort in this country if it was both so actionable in Eng-

lish law and actionable by the law of the foreign country where the relevant conduct occurred: see rule 205 of *Derry and Morris*.

So it was suggested, by parity of reasoning, regard should be paid to the law of Sweden, in order to decide whether the conduct of the ITF constituted duress rendering an English contract voidable on that ground.

His Lordship did not find the analogy compelling. In the first place it was not to be forgotten that, in the case of a foreign tort, at a case such as the present, in the case of a foreign tort, not only had the relevant conduct, or *hypothetically*, occurred outside the jurisdiction of the English court, but the only fact which brought in English law at all was the fact that the defendant was domiciled in England.

In the present case, however, there was another English connection of great importance, which was that the dispute related to a contract, and the relevant incidents of whose proper law was English law, and the relevant incidents of whose law were therefore governed by English law.

A more cogent reason had to be produced when such a case the English courts should not simply apply the principles of English law in deciding whether or not the relevant conduct constituted duress capable of rendering the contract voidable.

His Lordship did not find the analogy of tort sufficiently apposite or compelling to achieve that result.

Another reason could be adduced. Mr Justice Phillips was impressed by the argument advanced on behalf of ITF that a man ought to be able safely to regulate his conduct by complying with the laws of the country in which he found himself, and that might be true so far as the criminal law was concerned, but his Lordship could not see that it applied in the case of matters which affected the validity of a contract governed by some other system of law.

If a person entered into such a contract, he had for most purposes to accept the regime of the proper law of the contract; and if under that regime a particular form of duress, or for that matter undue influence, rendering the contract voidable wherever the relevant conduct occurred, he had to accept the consequences of his conduct under that system of law.

He should not assume that, simply because his contract was lawful in the place over which where it was performed, it could not for that reason render an English contract voidable for duress.

LORD KEITH and LORD ACKNER agreed and LORD LOWRY delivered a concurring speech.

Solicitors: Denton Hall Burgin & Warren; Holman Fenwick & Willan.

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Auction: London,
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Moves for a new voice in Europe

Iola Smith reports on a revival of interest in Welsh devolution since the proposals of the Labour government were rejected in 1979

Devolution has been brought back on to the Welsh political agenda for the first time since the proposals of the Callaghan government were rejected in 1979. The idea of a directly elected assembly, from which a regional government would be formed, continues to be opposed by the government in Westminster, but is supported with variations by the three opposition parties — Labour, the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru.

The aim is to "give Wales a voice", particularly on the broader European scene. Supporters of devolution have been impressed by the powers given to regions or states in some continental countries, particularly Germany and Spain, and would like the same for Wales.

At the same time, the idea has been given a fresh impetus by the government's proposals for a new system of local government in Wales. The eight county councils, which are to delegate their powers to new unitary authorities, are willing to do so, provided there is a regional assembly for Wales as a whole.

This represents a considerable change of attitude on the part of many who opposed devolution in 1979. At that time Neil Kinnock, for example, played a leading part in the campaign against devolution, but he is now one of those who believe that there should be a regional government, with its seat in Cardiff.

"In the decade ahead we are going to see the national boundaries of Europe diminishing, while regional and local identities grow in significance," he says.

The government, however, opposes the idea. David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, says: "I made it clear in the House of Commons that an assembly is incompatible with the office of secretary of state."

"There is a choice: a powerful secretary of state or a Welsh assembly cut off from the centre of power in the cabinet. I am con-

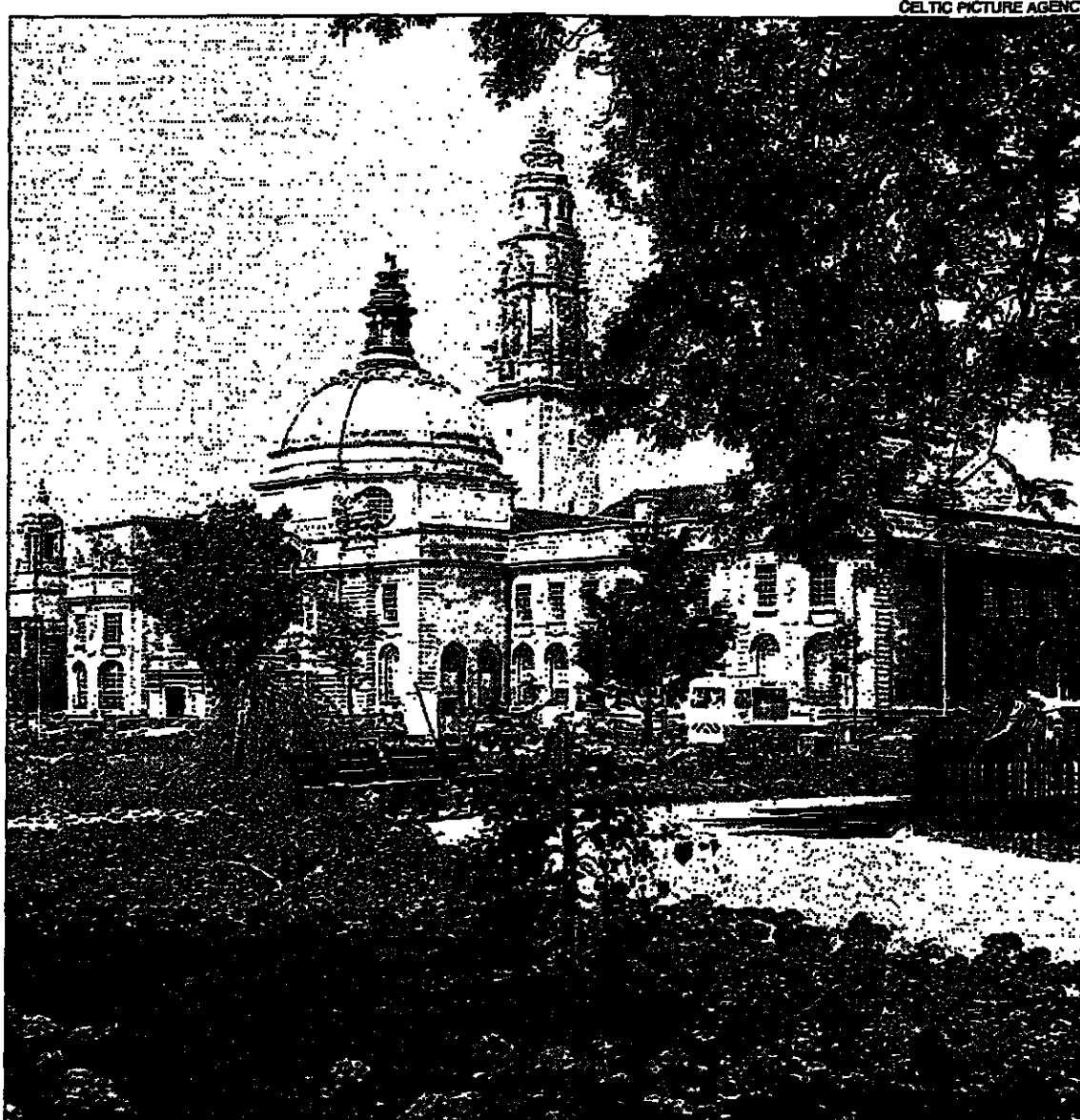
vinced that the interests of the people of Wales are best served if they are represented in cabinet by someone who has responsibility for government functions in Wales and who can argue directly with the Treasury for resources to perform those functions."

This argument is not accepted by the opposition parties. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats say that an assembly would not diminish the role of the Welsh secretary. "Freeing him from the day-to-day management of issues such as agriculture or housing will enable him to assume a more ambassadorial function, making it easier for him to attract inward investment to Wales," says Barry Jones, Labour's Welsh spokesman.

"Such a role would still enable him to bat strongly for Wales in cabinet and in parliament."

Richard Livsey, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, concedes that a Labour-dominated assembly could have to work with a Conservative Welsh secretary, but he does not envisage a conflict arising from that. "In the United States, a Republican president does business with the Democratic senate," he says. "A similar situation could work here."

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats believe that Welsh MPs should still be elected to Westminster, even after the creation of a Welsh assembly. But in other ways the plans of the opposition parties for structuring a regional government differ markedly. The Labour party, for example, proposes an assembly without fundraising or law-making powers — an idea dismissed as "bogus and powerless" by John Major, the prime minister. The Liberal Democrats want a legislative senate that would finance its operations through a local income tax, whereas Plaid Cymru calls for an independent parliament that would make Wales a national region of Europe. All three propose that the regional government



City hall: Cardiff is proposed as the seat of a regional government for the principality

should take power from Whitehall rather than from local councils, and that it should have control over the Welsh Office and the principality's 52 quangos.

Labour envisages that the assembly should have 76 members — two elected for each of Wales's 38 parliamentary constituencies. Mr Livsey, however, argues that proportional representation is the fairest way of electing members. "It is essential if a broad spectrum of political opinions is to be represented," he says.

"Simultaneously, I want to see a bill of rights being passed in Wales so that the regional government is truly democratic. Such a bill will enable the rights of both the English-speaking majority and the Welsh-speaking minority to be respected. It will also ensure that no political faction can hijack the assembly for its own ends."

Plaid Cymru is concerned that neither the Conservatives nor Lab-

our have plans for direct Welsh links with the rest of Europe. "Mr Hunt fails to mention the need for Welsh representation in the European Community, while Labour insists that the secretary of state would be responsible for strengthening Wales's European links," says Dafydd Elis Thomas, the former party president.

He adds: "We on the other hand, support the evolution of the Community as a Europe of the nations and historic regions, with a Welsh parliament having direct national representation within the Community." Mr Thomas says would like to see fewer Welsh MPs in Westminster and more in the European Parliament. "We also want Wales to have a written constitution, underlining clearly the differing roles of the Welsh parliament, the British government and the European Community."

Mr Hunt believes that "our present constitutional arrangements enable us to enjoy the benefits of direct involvement with the motor regions of the Community and yet retain the advantages of direct participation in the central government of the United Kingdom".

Mr Livsey disagrees, pointing to the emergence of European federalism. "We want to ensure that decision-making is devolved to the appropriate level," he says, "with the European Community managing global and environmental issues, the British parliament overseeing foreign affairs and defence, and the assembly controlling domestic matters within Wales."

"Small nations such as Catalonia enjoy considerable autonomy in regional affairs. Denying Wales such representation is preposterous, particularly as European grants — such as the £7 million earmarked for our agricultural areas — have a history of getting lost in Whitehall."

Regaining their parents' heritage

For the first time since Henry VIII it has become fashionable to speak Welsh

Some 500,000 people, 19 per cent of the population of Wales, speak Welsh, according to the 1981 census. New steps are being taken, not just to safeguard the language against further decline, but to increase the number of those who speak it.

From next September Welsh will be a foundation subject in the national curriculum in Welsh schools, and all state schools will be required to offer it. There is also pressure on the government to introduce a new Welsh language bill which would give improved status to Welsh by requiring its use alongside English by utilities and in the public sector.

A draft bill has been prepared by the Welsh Language Board, set up by the government in 1983 to promote Welsh, and is now being considered by David Hunt, the Welsh secretary. The bill is needed, according to John Elfed Jones, chairman of the board, "to give Welsh equal validity with English. At the moment Welsh is statutorily disadvantaged, so our intention is to redress the balance towards equality."

"We don't wish to make Welsh superior to English. But we believe that the utilities and public sector organisations should provide a Welsh service for their Welsh-speaking consumers."

Mr Hunt has yet to make up his mind. "I know there is a need to build on the good will that exists towards Welsh," he says, "and it behoves us to ensure that it continues to thrive. But it is too soon to say what the outcome of our consultations will be."

He describes the decision to require schools to offer Welsh as "the single most important step taken by any government to support the language".

for a new bill. Barry Jones, Labour's Welsh spokesman, says: "We'll introduce it during our first parliament. It will be backed by a central translation service to ensure that bilingual forms and documents are available to the public."

The bill will feature in the Liberal Democrats' manifesto for the next election, while Dafydd Elis Thomas, former president of Plaid Cymru, says: "It is needed to bring us into line with the European Community, where the Strasbourg parliament has adopted a far-reaching resolution backing lesser-used languages."

Some Welsh organisations, among them the Welsh arm of the Confederation of British Industry, are opposed to legislation, however.

"Additional costs would inhibit inward investment," Ian Kelsall, the director, says. "The worldwide language of industry is English, and we mustn't allow any barriers to hamper communication between Wales and the rest of the UK."

John Elfed Jones, who is also chairman of Welsh Water, the largest private sector company in Wales, disagrees. "Welsh Water runs its affairs wholly bilingually," he says. "Translation costs us very little, and we have found that the language is highly effective in marketing terms."

There has been an increase in demand for education using Welsh as the teaching medium. At present 85,000 pupils aged between three and 18 are having all their lessons in Welsh. The majority come from English-speaking homes, where parents who have lost their own Welsh cultural roots want their children to regain their heritage.

For the first time since Henry VIII's Act of Union of 1536, it has become fashionable to speak Welsh. No longer limited to rural villages, it is even widely spoken in Cardiff.



John Elfed Jones: Welsh validity

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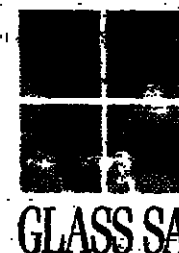
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Eight major sponsors, each a leading player in its own field, provided the support required to help ensure the commercial success of the Tournament. And as the sponsors celebrate the success of their participation in Rugby World Cup 1991, Rugby followers around the world applaud the role that they have played.

Their involvement will help fund the global development of the game and ensure that Rugby World Cup 1995 sets new standards of excellence both on and off the field.

Rugby World Cup is pleased that the Tournament has been such a successful event and would like to formally thank all the sponsors for their involvement.



Drum Taps joins Japan Cup party

Drum Taps, jointly owned

Drum Taps, jointly owned by Lord Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager, and Will Harrish, returned to Britain this year after racing in the United States, where he won five races. The five-year-old has continued to improve since joining Lord Carnarvon's stable, and has most recently finished a neck second to Passing Sale in the group one Gran Premio del Jockey Club at San Siro.

Lord Carnarvon, who returned to the United States on Wednesday, is thrilled and said yesterday: "We are very excited. I have never been to Japan before and, hopefully, Drum Taps will run well."

Langfrance Dettori is due to

Results..... page 38

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SS 438 (F) G Moore 6-10-4 J Callaghan
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MIND 185 (D.G.) A Williams 6-11-10

Mrs S Austin 5-11-5 J O'Gorman
 (BF) Mrs G Rewley 4-11-5 R Hodge (?)
 283P M Johnston 5-11-5 N Doughty
 DLY 7 K Burke 6-11-5 F Murtagh (?)
 J Charlton 4-11-10 B Storey
 A BERRY 7 W Storey 3-10-5 K Doonan
 JN 20 K Over 3-10-6 G Thomson (?)
 Betty's Folly, 3-1 Harpley, 9-2 Jumbly Bay, 9-
 others:

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 (F,W) W A Stephenson 6-10-12 .. C Grant
 BOBBES 24 (G,S) M Barnes 6-10-12
 P A Farrell
 Moss L Perratt 5-10-10 .. R Garrity
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 2 Wicings, 4-1 Santeila Bobbes, 7-1 Reel
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 E 735 W A Stephens 7:10-12 ... C Grant
 3 145 B Stirling 5:10-7 ... K Doonan
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 J Twomey (7)
 QUINTEEN 156 J Doran 5:10-5 ... N Leach (7)
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Taylor forced to call on his reserves

England's hopes suffer as four players pull out

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S already depleted squad for their decisive European championship qualifying tie in Poland next Wednesday has been weakened still further. David Barry, Paul Merson and Gary Pallister, all of whom were considered doubtful anyway because of injury, and Paul Parker, have been withdrawn by their clubs.

Graham Taylor yesterday promoted from his list of stand-by players Earl Barrett, of Oldham Athletic, and David Rocastle, of Chelsea, as well as Paul Elliott, of Chelsea. As in the last international, against Turkey at Wembley three weeks ago, the England manager has been left with the bare minimum of experienced central defenders.

Apart from Des Walker, a consistent choice over the last two years, there is one other candidate, Gary Mabbutt. Even he cannot be considered genuinely accustomed to the role. Recalled after an absence of four years against the Turks, he was playing there for only the third time in his international career.

Barrett has been selected only once, in the comparatively meaningless game against New Zealand during last summer's tour. Both of the other contenders — Keith Curle, of Manchester City, and Elliott — have yet to make their debuts.

The exclusion of Barry has also limited the experience in midfield. He has been selected for six of the last seven games. Although Rocastle has collected more caps, 11 in all, he has not featured in the starting line-up for almost two years. Nevertheless, he more than most will know what to expect

in Poznan, where England require a point to be sure of qualifying.

In 1989, Rocastle was a member of the team which held the Poles to a goalless draw in the closing World Cup qualifying tie and so reached the finals. Since Taylor has decided to discard his old guard, there are only three other survivors in the party — Stuart Pearce, Gary Lincker and Walker.

"My move to Chelsea has been an important factor in winning a place," Elliott said. "People were putting me forward for England when I was with Celtic, but I always felt it was a case of being out of sight and out of mind."

"I never gave up hope of a call-up. I am thrilled to be involved with England and I will go out to Poland with the intention of working hard."

Taylor, meanwhile, is adopting a positive approach to England's task. "Ever since I took on this job I've never seen England doing anything else but qualify for Sweden — and I don't intend to start thinking negatively now," he said yesterday. "But I do get the feeling that there are certain people who want me to fail — and for the life of me I don't understand why."

"My job has been to qualify for Sweden with a side that is changing — it is bound to with newcomers coming in — and the only way you can find out about players is to play them. Then I hope we will come out of Sweden with the nucleus of a new England side ready for the World Cup in 1994."

"What we've done so far is to get into the position that Poland, Ireland and Turkey would all love to have. We'll

come back from Poznan knowing whether we are in Sweden or not. If we are, then great. If we're not, it will be that extreme again, with everybody baying for my blood."

"It has been a hard month for me, with a performance against Turkey that was very less than satisfactory and also unfortunately the publicity as regards Steve Harrison."

"More than anything else since the Turkey game, my mind has been on the Poland game. Under my management we've played 14 games and every team I send out to play I expect them to go out expecting to win, and if they can't manage that then I don't expect them to lose. In 13 games out of the 14 we've achieved that, and I don't see any reason why we can't do that in Poland."

□ The England under-21 team, which plays Poland in Pila next Tuesday, has also lost four players through injury — Kevin Campbell, of Arsenal, the Nottingham Forest pair of Gary Charles and Carl Tiler, and John Ebbrell, of Everton. They are replaced by Lee Clark, of Newcastle United, Darren Anderson, of Portsmouth, Ugochukwu Ehiogu, of Aston Villa, and Paul Warhurst, of Sheffield Wednesday.

□ Roy Keane, of Nottingham Forest, has withdrawn from the Republic of Ireland squad for the European championship qualifying game in Turkey (Chris Moore writes). The midfielder player has been out of action for three weeks since damaging ankle ligaments at Sheffield United, and failed to play for his team's reserves last night.

Hodge handed ban and fine

STEVE Hodge, the Leeds United and England midfielder, was banned for one match and fined £1,800 by the Football Association yesterday.

He was found guilty of misconduct after making "insulting and improper remarks" at John Martin, the referee, and his linesmen after the 1-0 defeat at Crystal Palace on October 1.

Hodge whose previous record amounted to a handful

of bookings, has the right to appeal if he considers the punishment too severe.

Hodge missed Leeds' last match against Wimbledon with a groin injury but was expected to be fit for the game against Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday week, when he will now serve his suspension.

The FA also fined the Sheffield United manager, Dave Bassett, £500, for insulting a referee.

The Manchester City cen-

tral defender, Colin Hendry, is set to return to his former club, Blackburn Rovers, for £700,000. Derek Mountfield, the Aston Villa defender, yesterday joined Wolverhampton Wanderers on a month's loan and is expected to play in tomorrow's second division game with Derby County.

Notts County are poised to pay a club record of £750,000 for Tony Agana, the Sheffield United forward. Neil Warnock, the County manager, agreed the fee yesterday after selling David Regis to Plymouth for £200,000.

Mark Stein, of Oxford United, yesterday joined Stoke City for £100,000 after spending a month on loan at the third-division club.

Shrewsbury, meanwhile, have called off their third division game at Stockport tonight because 11 players are suffering from a virus.

□ Football League officials are planning financial bonuses on a sliding scale for clubs left behind by next season's FA-inspired Premier League structure. The League will unveil the plans in London today.

□ Wembley stadium has been provisionally selected to stage this season's European Cup final on May 20, Uefa announced yesterday.

More football, page 39

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Right on cue: Allison Fisher, the dethroned snooker world champion, ignored the attention surrounding her namesake, Mandy Fisher, above, front, to reach the semi-finals of the Forte Hotels women's world championship at the Hyde Park Hotel, London, yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Allison beat Mandy, who gave birth to a son, Matthew, on Sunday, 5-0 in a display which suggested she is in sufficiently good shape to regain the

title she relinquished to Karen Corr last year. Allison is recognised as the best around, but would prefer to have the title to prove it.

Mandy, the chairperson of the World Ladies' Billiards and Snooker Association, hardly had a conventional preparation for the match. Ten minutes before the break-off, and a lengthy photo call, she was breast-feeding the baby.

"I've always maintained that there

is no physical reason why women should not play snooker as well as men, but when you are breast-feeding, believe me, there is." Mandy, who scored just 48 points in all, said.

While Mandy, the world No. 6, did not provide Allison with the sternest of examinations, the high standard of the winner's play was undeniable as she compiled breaks of 45, 30, 32, 66 and 45 in an accomplished performance.

Results, page 39

Chang restores an air of calm

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the deluge of abuse poured on the umpire, linesmen and spectators by the incorrigible John McEnroe the previous night, calm returned to the Diet Pepsi Challenge in Birmingham yesterday in the form of Michael Chang.

Chang had to come from behind to beat Grant Connell, but unlike his compatriot, beaten in three sets by Alex Mironz, he was serenely himself under pressure. Talk about sinners and saints.

Yet if Connell, who is best remembered for knocking Ivan Lendl out of Queen's and almost ending Andre Agassi's Wimbledon adventure before it had begun, had taken the four break points on offer for a 4-2 lead in the second set, the

organisers might have been mourning the loss of their top two seeds within 24 hours.

Luckily for them, Chang is made of sterner stuff than McEnroe and Connell does not hit the ball as hard as Mironz, so once the top seed had dug himself out, Connell had no more to offer. After leading by a set and 3-2, he won just two more games.

At roughly the same time, McEnroe was heading back to America on Concordia, his \$75,000 (£42,000) guarantee safely stowed away in his back pocket. It was a tribute to McEnroe's drawing power that he was able to attract more than 2,000 people away from the season's biggest night of televised football and into the National Indoor Arena.

Whether the faithful feel re-

warded for their efforts depends largely on whether they like tennis, of which the American played very little, or confrontation, of which he provoked plenty.

The organisers, though, must have wished their money had been performance-linked, because McEnroe v Chang would have been an ideal final, a contrast of style and personality which would have breathed life into the tournament. McEnroe's grubby first-round defeat ended such dreams, but has at least sent one of the underdogs with a chance to take centre stage over the next few days.

The most unlikely of the quarter in the bottom half of the draw is Tom Nijssen, who is enjoying a fairy-tale ending to his year. Ranked 293rd in

the world, the Dutchman came to Birmingham mainly to seal the last position in the Association of Tennis Professionals tour world doubles championship in Johannesburg in two weeks.

But, having qualified for the third tournament in succession, he beat Magnus Larsson yesterday to reach the singles quarter-final, his first for more than a year. "Success in doubles has taken the pressure of my singles," Nijssen said.

He is guaranteed to win \$13,200, his biggest paycheck for singles this year, though he has earned over \$100,000 from doubles. "I'm having a very pleasant time here," he added. Perhaps he should have told McEnroe.

RESULTS: Singles: Second round, M Chang (US) bt G Connell (Can), 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; T Nijssen (Neth) bt M Larsson (Swe), 7-6, 6-2.

Watson to captain Ryder Cup team

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT



Watson: concerned

TOM Watson, five times the Open champion, has been appointed captain of the United States for their defence of the Ryder Cup, which will take place at The Belfry in September, 1993.

Watson takes over from Dave Stockton, whose inspirational leadership helped the United States to retain the cup at Kiawah Island less than six weeks ago, following a ballot by the PGA of America and board members.

The PGA of America wasted little time confirming their nineteenth captain in the biennial matches which began in 1927. Watson has won 32 times on the US PGA Tour, including two Masters and one US Open, and played in four Ryder Cup matches.

He said: "To be the captain is an honour that will stay with me for the rest of my life, but right now I feel I would need to win six times to be worthy of playing as well."

Watson's appointment comes only four weeks after he made it known that he was prepared to become captain and that he was disappointed with some events at Kiawah Island. He said: "I felt the crowd got out of hand, and some of the players showed the wrong kind of attitude."

"Golf is a gentlemen's sport. I might be a touch old-fashioned, but I do believe it's possible to play the game a little less demonstrably."

S Africa's return touched by internal strife

By DAVID MILLER

WHILE blacks and whites throughout South Africa are welcoming the confirmation of a return to the Olympic Games next year following an absence of 32 years, the future of non-racial South African sport remains fraught with difficulties, not least continuing violence between Xhosas and Zulus.

F. W. de Klerk, the president, welcomed the move last March by the Apartheid Commission delegation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), when it visited Johannesburg and Cape Town, to initiate South Africa's readmission. Now, however, the government is reported to be angry at the decision, on Wednesday, by the new, integrated National Olympic Committee of South Africa (Nocsa) not to use the national flag or anthem, nor

the traditional Springbok emblem, at the Games in Barcelona. It is believed the government may attempt to coerce Nocsa into a conventional attitude.

"No matter what the government says, we're not going to back down," Muleki George, the vice-chairman of Nocsa, said yesterday. "Competitors, whatever their colour, are not particularly bothered either way. They're pleased to be going. The objections are coming from the administration." It was inconceivable, of course, that integrated South African sport would continue under the old colours of a white regime.

Although Sam Ramsamy, the former radical anti-apartheid activist, is the nominal figurehead in South Africa's return, as chairman of Nocsa, George has the power base as chairman of the National Olympic Sports Congress

(Nosc), the black organisation backed by the African National Congress (ANC). It was Nosc, under George's leadership which made possible the multi-racial discussions throughout Africa in 1989-90 which created a platform for the IOC's initiative.

"This is just the beginning, and all racial bodies are very optimistic," George said. "For the first time, South Africa will have a truly non-racial team that is acceptable to all. But the violence is worrying. If this should escalate next year, it could be difficult to go to Barcelona. If the country was to be on the verge of civil war, we would have to withdraw our decision."

The acceptance of the IOC's invitation to Barcelona was announced following a meeting at a Johannesburg hotel on Wednesday, to approve the constitution of Nocsa. The most significant development

is the collaboration of the South African Council on Sport (Sacos), the politically-orientated coloured body which has persistently foiled the establishment of a unified athletics federation. Joe Ibrahim, chairman of Sacos, stressed on Wednesday that teams must be picked on merit next year — and, for the moment, that will predominantly be against the interest of black and coloured competitors, who have inferior training facilities.

George, while accepting selection on merit, is pressing for some of the better non-white athletes, who fail to make selection, to be included in the squad for experience and exposure to the Olympic environment.

"We know it will add to the expense, but we must promote the development of black competitors who are still lacking the opportunities available

to whites," George said. South Africa will be in none of the team sports, in which qualifying competitions are already underway denying them, for example, an opportunity in football, the strongest and most popular black sport. Whites will inevitably dominate such individual sports as yachting, tennis, gymnastics and shooting. The non-whites will figure strongly in boxing, in which the amateur sport has a strong black majority, and to a lesser extent in table tennis and cycling. Blacks would figure in wrestling and judo, but as yet neither of these sports has established an integrated federation.

I understand that the South African Amateur Athletic Association, the unified body which has had difficulty gaining acceptance from the coloured Board, was holding a meeting at which the coloured

S Africa squad warned off curry

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE 18 South African cricketers chosen to end the country's 21 years of isolation from the international game, left here for India last night with stern advice from somebody who knows the score: "Watch your diet, not too much curry, very little water and no dairy products."

Conrad Hunte, the former West Indian batsman who is in South Africa helping the newly-formed United Cricket Board with its development programme, aimed at identifying young black players until now denied the chance of proving their potential, was invited to the team's only net practice at the Wanderers, in Johannesburg.

Clive Rice, aged 42, the captain of the side, said: "Conrad knows the conditions in India inside out. I asked him to attend our net and brief the team on what to expect, and he agreed immediately." Hunte's advice will be well heeded and, as a precaution, 200 cases of South African beer, donated by a brewery, were loaded aboard their aircraft.

Hunte was optimistic about the team's chances in the three one-day matches in India next week. He said: "I really think this side could join the world." He was particularly impressed by the fast bowlers, who he felt would be particularly effective in the first match, in Calcutta, on Sunday.

"I've been in India and won the test 1 world game on their picking system, nearly wickets," he said. Rice, a pugnacious Irishman who would have made his international debut against Australia in 1970 if politics had not interfered, was doing his best to appear calm as the players prepared to depart. "When we toss the coin in the middle on Sunday, I'll believe it's all happening," he said.

Rice has prepared himself with some long telephone calls to his former Nottinghamshire team-mate, Sir Richard Hadfield. "He gave me some very valuable advice on playing in India and I think that by the time we reach Calcutta we will have done our homework," Rice said.

Cricketers here are not expecting much of a squad which was hastily thrown together this week, especially since most of the players are rusty after the winter break. But that caution does not disguise the national delight that the country is once again engaged in official international competition.

A stoppage called by the African National Congress and black trade unions meant the players' blazers were not ready when they left. Instead they will be made in India.

□ Calcutta — Authorities set a limit on ticket sales for the match against South Africa on Sunday and have prepared to greet the touring team with a procession through the city. Cricket officials have imposed a maximum sale of two tickets per person queuing outside the Eden Gardens stadium, which has an official capacity of 90,000.

"There is a very, very big queue for tickets," Jagmohan Dalmiya, the executive president of the Cricket Association of Bengal, said. (Reuters)

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England sponsor, page 39